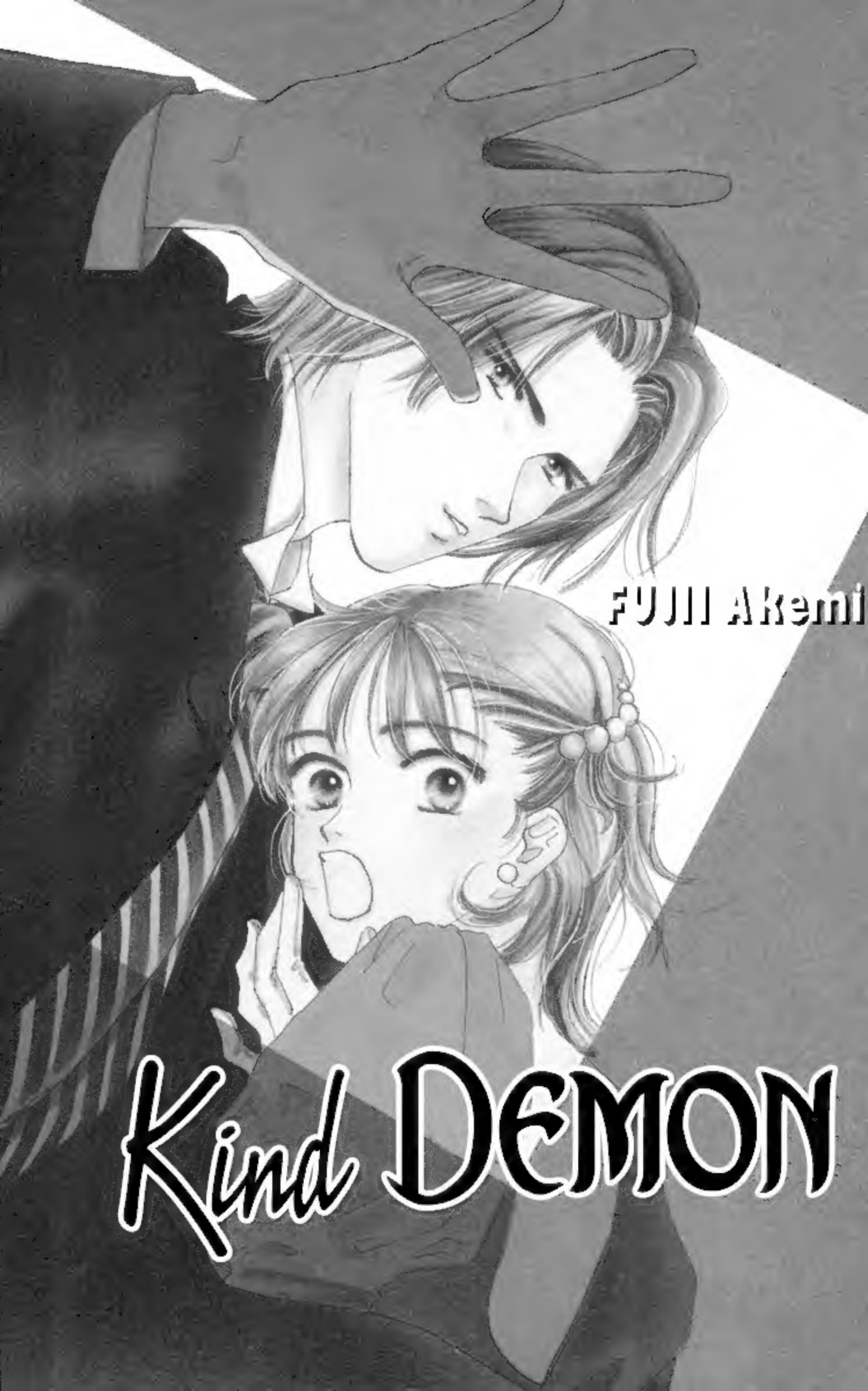

FUJII Akemi
Kind DEMON

RENTED CLOTHES

WHEN I WAS YOUNG,

AN ANGEL LIVED NEXT DOOR.

HE WAS SMALL AND A CRYBABY.

WHENEVER I HELD HIS HAND,
HIS SMILE WOULD BLOOM LIKE A FLOWER.

ANYWAY, SINCE HE'S INTENT ON ATTENDING A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY,
HE SAYS HE MIGHT AS WELL GO TO HIGH SCHOOL HERE IN JAPAN.
THAT'S WHY WATARU-KUN RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY BY HIMSELF.
UH...
IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS, HASN'T IT? I'M AMAZED!
He's so handsome!

Nice meeting you again.
I'M NOT YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR THIS TIME, BUT I LIVE IN AN APARTMENT NEAR HERE.
LONG TIME NO SEE, TOUKO-CHAN.
NO WAY!
UH, OK.
Come. Join us for dinner.
WHAT DID SCRAWNY LITTLE WATARU-CHAN EAT...
...TO GROW THIS MUCH?!
THUMP
WHOA.
HE USED TO LOOK LIKE A GIRL, TOO...

I'M GETTING FLUSTERED SOMEHOW.
UM,
MUST BE TOUGH LIVING ON YOUR OWN, HUH? AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
THEY LET ME DO MY OWN THING.
NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT?
PLUS, THERE'S STILL THE PROMISE YOU MADE TO ME, TOKO-CHAN*.
*Toko is the childish pronunciation of Touko.
...
PROM-ISE?
TOUKO-CHAN?

HUH?
UM...
...?
YOU...
NARROW
DON'T REMEMBER ?
FLINCH
UH, NO?
AH...
I SEE.
HMM...
!
UH-OH... NOW WHAT?

Whumm
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT..
THOUGH OF COURSE, I NEVER FORGOT.
UH, SORRY..
IT WAS NINE YEARS AGO. ANYBODY WOULD FORGET.
WELL...
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU
OH, WELL
Stab
Stab
ACK!
Eep!
OK? ♡
Tremble
TEE...
HEE...
WHO IS THIS GUY?

2-6
YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND?
YEAH.
THE ANGEL I MET AGAIN AFTER NINE YEARS...
HAS COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO A HUMAN MALE.
SQUEAL
NO WAY! YOU HAVE GOT TO INTRODUCE US!
WELL... I GUESS SO.
He's tall.
OH, THAT'S NEWS TO ME! WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE? IS HE HANDSOME?
HE'S YOUNGER THAN US, THOUGH.
By a year...
Neat.
Squeal
Aww
EVEN BETTER!
What is?

What—
AND EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OLD FRIENDS, WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH FOR NINE YEARS.
HE'S LIKE A TOTAL STRANGER.
!?
Squish
We did use to be close.
THERE'S JUST NO WAY HE'LL HANG OUT WITH ME ANYMORE.
HE PROBABLY JUST DROPPED BY TO SAY HELLO BECAUSE HE FELT HE HAD TO.
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING THAT UP NOW!
I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING BAD!
Ha ha ha!
FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING, THE AIR AROUND ME WAS TOTALLY FRIGID.
S-
SCARY.
WHAT'S WORSE IS I MIGHT HAVE MADE HIM ANGRY...
I don't remember it at all.
TOUKO!!
DID I REALLY MAKE...
SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROMISE?
Ugh...

WHAT?!
DROP
JEEZ, DON'T MAKE ME LOOK FOR YOU.
SHOW ME THE CAFETERIA, WILL YOU?
I'm starved!
WATARU!!
Dumbfounded
WH-
WH-
WHAT?
THAT'S DIRTY, JUST MAKING ONE FOR YOURSELF.
YOU PACKED YOUR LUNCH?
SO YOU'VE ALREADY EATEN.

Clatter
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I TRANSFERRED INTO THIS SCHOOL, OBVIOUSLY. I'M IN CLASS 1-5.
Y-YOU TRANSFERRED... HERE? YOU DIDN'T MENTION IT YESTERDAY!
NO, WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS...
HEY, TOUKO,
He's way out of our league!
What?
IS HE..?
UH, YEAH.
I'm taking the extra tamagoyaki.
HAS HE...
ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS?
SMILE
I'M NISHIZAKI WATARU.
THANKS FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF TOUKO.

STILL ANGRY WITH ME!!
FRAZZ
SINCE TOKO-CHAN TENDS TO BE FORGETFUL,
SHE'S PROBABLY CAUSED YOU LOTS OF TROUBLE.
ARE YOU REALLY A YEAR YOUNGER?
You don't look it
How many centimeters TALL.
YOU'RE
Squeal
Awesome
German and French, yes
THEN YOU KNOW OTHER LANGUAGES!
Squeal
SO YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM ABROAD?
Yep
HE'S...
LET'S GET GOING, TOUKO.
HUH? WHERE TO?
THE CAFETERIA
Were you spacing out?
BUT I'VE ALREADY EATEN.
Grrwl
BUT I'M HUNGRY.

W-
WAIT.
SO SELFISH!
Later!
Let's strangle her later!
I envy Touko
HEY.
YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO GET SOME BREAD IF YOU GO NOW.
THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA IS SMALL.
N-NO,
BUT WE SHORTEN THE SKIRT OUR-SELVES...
by folding it at the waist
WH-WHAT ABOUT IT?
DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
HUH?
IS A MINISKIRT A PART OF THE GIRL'S UNIFORM?
SHAA
YOU BET IT DOES.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO BLUNT!
STAB
HOW SILLY.
IT SHOWS TOO MUCH LEG.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING TO FLAUNT.
I can see your butt.
STAB
STAB
Arg!
Ugh...
Sway...
JEEZ...
Throb
Throb
THUMP
...
ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT YESTERDAY?
I ALREADY APOLO-GIZED, DIDN'T I?
SPARE ME!
NAH, I'M NOT REALLY MAD AT YOU.
Smile

I'M JUST HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU
WEEP
WEEP
THAT MAKES IT EVEN HARDER TO DEAL WITH.
Oh, these are puffy.
I CAN'T HELP IT, YOU KNOW? I'M HURT.
Ow ow.
SMILE
PREPARE YOURSELF,
OK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PREPARE MYSELF?!
Ha ha ha! Just like mochi!
MIURA-SAN?
THIS IS PERFECT. I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO YOUR CLASSROOM.

I'm running out of time.
I HAVE SOME CLUB DUTIES TO ATTEND TO.
CAN YOU HAND THESE OUT FOR ME TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM EACH YEAR?
yeah
SURE!
CHIKADA-SENPAI!
Huff
Huff
Ha ha ha
REALLY?
THANKS. SEE YOU.
Miffed
Glance
...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND.
IS HE YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
NO!
Shake
Shake
NO! OF COURSE NOT! THERE'S NO WAY!!

I'M HUNGRY. WHERE DO I BUY FOOD?
Sigh
W-
WATARU?
NINE YEARS AGO...
I ACTED LIKE A BIG SISTER TO WATARU-CHAN,
MY PUNY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR,
ALWAYS DEFENDING HIM FROM BULLIES.
THE SMILE THAT CAME AFTER THE TEARS...
MADE HIM LOOK LIKE AN ANGEL.
"I LOVE YOU, TOKO-CHAN."

PLUS, YOU'D TAKE CARE OF THE DIRTY WORK FOR ME IF I STARTED CRYING...
AND THE GROWN-UPS WOULD TAKE MY SIDE IF I FLASHED THEM MY INNOCENT SMILE.
KIDS' FIGHTS ARE ALL ABOUT SIZE, YOU KNOW.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GET HURT.
Too much trouble
BUT...
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE FULL USE OF WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU, RIGHT?
...TO THINK HE WAS THIS SORT OF PERSON ALL ALONG!
YOU'RE...
THE WORST...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT...
FROM SOMEONE AS HEARTLESS AS YOU.
WHAT ABOUT MY WONDER-FUL MEMORIES OF YOU?
SWITCH
Ugh!

SMILE
UGH, I'M IN A VULNERABLE POSITION.
LIKE I WAS SAYING,
Fidget
IF YOU WOULD JUST TELL ME WHAT THAT PROMISE WAS, THEN THE MEMORY MIGHT COME BACK TO ME.
Fidget
DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME FOR HOLDING ONTO IT FOR NINE YEARS?
YOU'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER IT BY YOURSELF.
THAT INGRATE!
WATARU-KUN! TOUKO!
IS HE GOING TO KEEP PICKING ON ME UNTIL I REMEMBER IT?!
DINNER'S READY!
GOOD THING I INSISTED ON COMING BACK...
BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.
Mutter Mutter
whew!
? ? ?
WHAT?
YOU'RE TOO WEAK AND CARELESS, MY DEAR TOKO-CHAN!
NO!!!

I'M SO SORRY...
FOR BARGING IN ON YOU LIKE THIS.
HELP YOURSELF, WATARU-KUN.
NOT AT ALL! THE MORE THE MERRIER!
NOTHING BEATS WOMEN'S HOME COOKING.
Oh, my~
OOF!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OF AN APPETITE SINCE I CAME BACK, BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT
BUT FOOD TASTES SO MUCH BETTER HERE.
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S FILLED WITH LOVE.
Puke
Sand
Of course it's scrumptious on its own.
YOU BIG FAT LIAR!
YOU HAD 2 YAKISOBA BREADS, 3 CROQUETTE BREADS, 2 HAM ROLLS, EGG AND ASSORTED SANDWICHES, CHOCOLATE CORNETS, FRIED DONUTS, AND 2 STEAMED CHESTNUT BREADS FOR LUNCH!
OH!
Ho ho ho!
There's plenty left!
YOU EVEN ATE MY SIDE DISHES!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY HAVE FOR LUNCH?
Ugh. I feel sick just remembering it.
PACKAGED BREADS.
OH, DEAR! THOSE AREN'T HEALTHFUL ENOUGH FOR YOU AT YOUR AGE!

WHY DO I HAVE TO...?
OH, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. SHE FIXES HER OWN LUNCH EVERY MORNING.
I'M SURE TOKO-CHAN IS BUSY IN THE MORNING.
REALLY, THERE'S NO NEED.
TOUKO, STARTING TOMORROW, MAKE A LUNCH FOR WATARU-KUN, TOO.
WAIT A MINUTE, MOM!
SHOCK
THAT'S FINAL, TOUKO.
WHAT?!
"PREPARE YOURSELF, OK?"
Heh
THAT DEMON!
"YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE FULL USE OF WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU, RIGHT?"

Sho
Ve
THE TAMAGOYAKI WAS SO-SO, BUT TOO SWEET. IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A DESSERT, YOU KNOW.
THE WORST WERE THE RED SAUSAGES. ARTIFICIAL COLORING GIVES ME HIVES. DON'T PUT THOSE IN AGAIN.
PUT IN MORE VEGETABLES.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE THIS MUCH COLD FOOD, I MIGHT AS WELL PREPARE MY OWN LUNCH.
Pissed
LOOK...
IF YOU WANT ME TO KEEP MAKING YOUR LUNCH FOR YOU,
QUIT COMPLAIN-ING!
I'M NOT COMPLAINING. I'M TELLING YOU WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU.

THE WHOLE IDEA OF LIVING ALONE IS NEW TO ME, AND I'M HAVING TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO JAPAN AFTER NINE LONG YEARS!
THE FOOD ISN'T VERY APPEALING, EITHER.
WHAT IF MY STYLE AND GOOD LOOKS GET RUINED BY POOR NUTRITION?
BESIDES...
THIS BRAT!
Reach
I ONLY SAY THESE KINDS OF THINGS...
TO YOU.
Thump
WHAT...?

TOUCH
WH-
WHAT?!
ZIT.
YOU GET ZITS BECAUSE PACKAGED FROZEN FOOD IS ALL YOU EAT.
Blush
Man,
SHUT UP!
EVEN YOU HAVE—!
SHOCK
My skin is flawless.
UGH...
YO, NISHIZAKI.
Zits are a symbol of adolescence.
So what?
YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO JOIN THE BASKETBALL CLUB, RIGHT?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE CLUB ROOM.
Wanna come along?
YEAH, SURE.

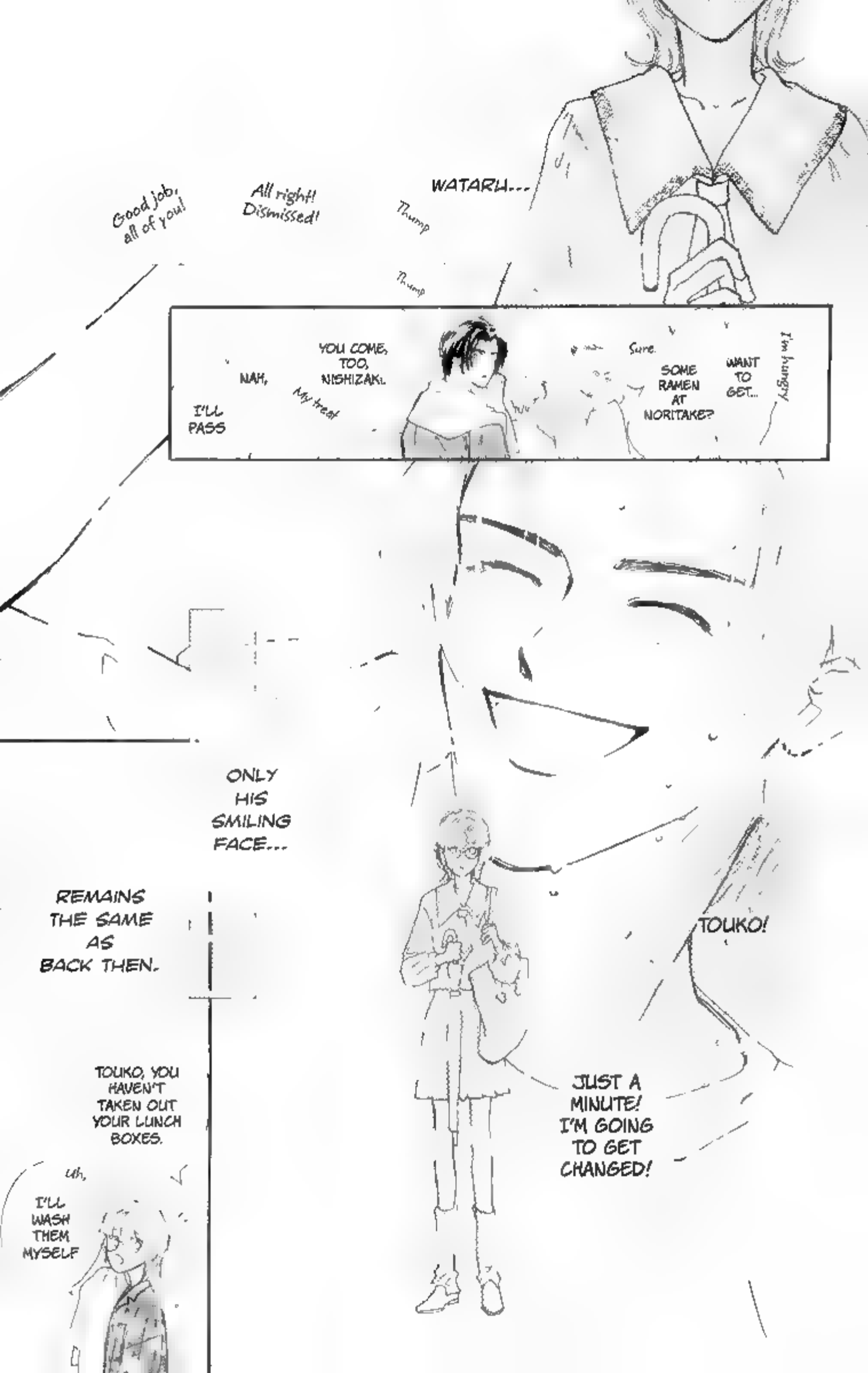
Slap
YOU BROUGHT YOUR UMBRELLA, RIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.
WHY DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU?!
SO, TOUKO,
DON'T GO HOME WITHOUT ME.
AH HA HA.
THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
I'M NOT YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE, YOU KNOW!

NISHIZAKI
YEP
IS THAT HER?
YOU SAID SHE WAS OLDER
SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE'D BE
BUT OH WELL
...
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR BEING WHAT I AM
BLUSH
DON'T COMPARE ME TO H.M.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M WITH HIM BECAUSE I WANT TO BE.
HMM_

WILL HE NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE FOR ME...
ONCE I REMEMBER THE PROMISE?
SIGH
IT'S BECAUSE OF MY VULNERABLE POSITION...
THAT HE CAN MANIPULATE ME LIKE THIS.
OR...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I'M NO LONGER USEFUL?
THAT PROMISE OR WHATEVER...
IS IT EVEN WORTH THE FUSS?
SIGH.
Patter
Throb
Zzshh...
IT'S RAINING FOR REAL.
Wow. I can't ignore him. Sheesh.
Patter

Squeak
STOP! ONE MORE TO GO!
Bam
Bam
Bam
Squeak
WE CAN'T CHANGE PLAYERS!
Squeak
Bam
ACK, THE ZIT
I DO LOOK PLAIN.
MAYBE I SHOULD AT LEAST WEAR CONTACTS...
Annoyed
HOW LONG IS HE GOING TO MAKE ME WAIT?
HE'S SO THOUGHT-LESS.
Jeez
Whomp
NISHIZAKI!
Jump
DEFENSE!

Argh!
DAMN YOU, NISHIZAKI!
Shit!
Hey! Defense!
Squeak
ALL RIGHT!
Pam
Yeah
Pam


WATARU...
Thump
Thump
All right! Dismissed!
Good job, all of you!
I'LL PASS
NAH,
YOU COME, TOO, NISHIZAKI.
My treat
Sure.
SOME RAMEN AT NORITAKE?
WANT TO GET...
I'm hungry
ONLY HIS SMILING FACE...
REMAINS THE SAME AS BACK THEN.
TOUKO!
JUST A MINUTE! I'M GOING TO GET CHANGED!
TOUKO, YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN OUT YOUR LUNCH BOXES.
Uh,
I'LL WASH THEM MYSELF

IF HE KEEPS COMPLAINING,
I'LL STOP MAKING HIS LUNCH.
Empty
HE'S ALWAYS SO SELFISH, AND YET...
Flap
Flap
Whoa.
WHAT? YOU EVEN HAVE HER MAKE YOUR LUNCH?
AW... I WOULD GLADLY MAKE YOU LUNCH IF YOU'D JUST ASK ME.
SHE'S JUST YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, ISN'T SHE?
That's it, right?
HA HA HA. THANKS.

Ha-ha-ha!
That's mean.
I MEAN, EVEN THIS GUY CALLS HER HIS CONVENIENCE STORE OR SOMETHING.
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE SOME SEXY OLDER GIRL, BUT... YOU KNOW.
CLAP
No offense.
YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND IS KIND OF PLAIN.
BUT YOU KNOW, NISHIZAKI,
THAT'S OK.
ONLY I GET TO CALL HER THAT.
What to Include in a Packed Lunch
IRITION FACTS

Throb
Clack!
HEY, TOUKO!
WHY DID YOU GO HOME WITHOUT ME?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO SHOPPING FOR MY BASKETBALL SHOES! DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT?
...
March
March

Hello! EVERYBODY

1

Hi, guys. Fuji here. It's been a while, hasn't it? Nah, actually it's been 11 months since the last compiled work. So far there are 14 in total (I just counted)... or something. This volume comes out ahead of *Moebius no Tamago* volume 2. Ha ha ha ha ha! I've received letters from people who would like to get a hold of *Moebius* volume 2, but unfortunately it's not out yet. ...I'm so sorry. ϕ There weren't enough pages in *Moebius*, and I couldn't get out a one-shot in time. It's a simple reason, really, so I think the book will be released soon. Probably.

* There are five quarter-page spaces in this book, plus some bonus pages at the end.

CAN'T YOU BE MORE ALERT?
YOU SURE ARE FORGETFUL.
Huh? Huh?
OW!
Cut it out!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BASKETBALL OR WHERE THE STORES ARE, EITHER.
I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP.
EVEN IF I WENT,
I ALREADY KNOW WHICH STORES TO GO TO, SO NO PROBLEM THERE.
Miffed
THEN YOU DON'T NEED ME.
I STILL DON'T KNOW MY WAY AROUND TOWN.
IF I SAY WE'RE GOING, WE'RE GOING!
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK SOMEBODY ELSE—
Flinch
SLAM

I FEEL SO STUPID.
TOUKO?
WHY AM I...
EVEN YOUR LUNCH
HURTING INSIDE?
HUH?
...
Clench
DO YOU HATE MAKING IT THAT MUCH?
WHO WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO MAKE YOU A LUNCH.
THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER GIRLS...
FINE.
I GET IT.
UM...
!

ACTUALLY...

Close

IT'S JUST THAT...

I DIDN'T REALLY MIND HIM BOSSING ME AROUND.

"ONLY I GET TO CALL HER THAT."

"...EVEN THIS GUY CALLS HER HIS CONVENIENCE STORE OR SOMETHING."

SEEING HIM LAUGH ABOUT ME WITH HIS FRIENDS...

MADE ME...

SAD.

Ding
Dong
Ding
Chatter
Chatter
Dong
EXTREMELY SAD.
HEY, NISHIZAKI.
Twitch
YOU'RE GOING TO THE CAFETERIA TODAY, RIGHT?
Better hurry or we'll be stuck with bread!
HERE'S YOUR LUNCH! ♡
W-
WAIT, NISHIZAKI-KUN!

Why Nishizaki?
only
?
IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU, NISHIZAKI-KUN, LIVING ON YOUR OWN.
SO I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS...
...CHAN...
TOKO-CHAN...
MY FAMILY'S MOVING TO SOME PLACE CALLED GERMANY.
Dash
Dash
"CHILDHOOD FRIENDS" HAS A SPECIAL RING TO IT?
I... I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOU.
Pat
YOU SEE,
I LOVE YOU, TOKO-CHAN.

I'M—
I'M SORRY
Ha ha.
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
A MEMBER OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING IN THE HALLWAY.
OH, SENPAI...
NOTH-ING.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M BUYING SOME BREAD.
OH.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL TASTE, THOUGH.
I MADE TOO MUCH THIS MORNING.
HUH?
ARE YOU SURE?
AH! UM...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THIS?
I APPRECIATE IT AND ALL,
BUT WASN'T THIS FOR THAT FIRST YEAR WHO'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
NO!
HE'S JUST A CHILDHOOD FRIEND!
IT'S NOT AS IF WATARU—
...

YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND HIM A LOT LATELY.
I WAS FEELING A LITTLE DEPRESSED ABOUT THAT.
SO,
I CAN ASK YOU OUT?
WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES...
THIS SUNDAY?
Hank
Hank
Hank

CONTACT LENS
Contact lens
Hard
Soft
HEART
HEY,
YOU PLAN ON GETTING CONTACTS?
SUNDAY, HUH?
WILL THEY BE READY IN TIME?
YOU LEFT ON YOUR OWN AGAIN! SHEESH.
WATARU!!
LET'S GO SHOPPING FOR MY BASKETBALL SHOES.
Don't break your promise

Throb
AT LEAST GLASSES COVER HALF YOUR FACE.
FORGET ABOUT GETTING CONTACTS.
I-- PROMISE ?
TOUKO...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
!
I HEARD THAT THIRD YEAR ASKED YOU OUT.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE YOURSELF MORE APPEALING?
WHAT?!
WHEN I DROPPED BY YOUR CLASS.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR FRIENDS TOLD ME...

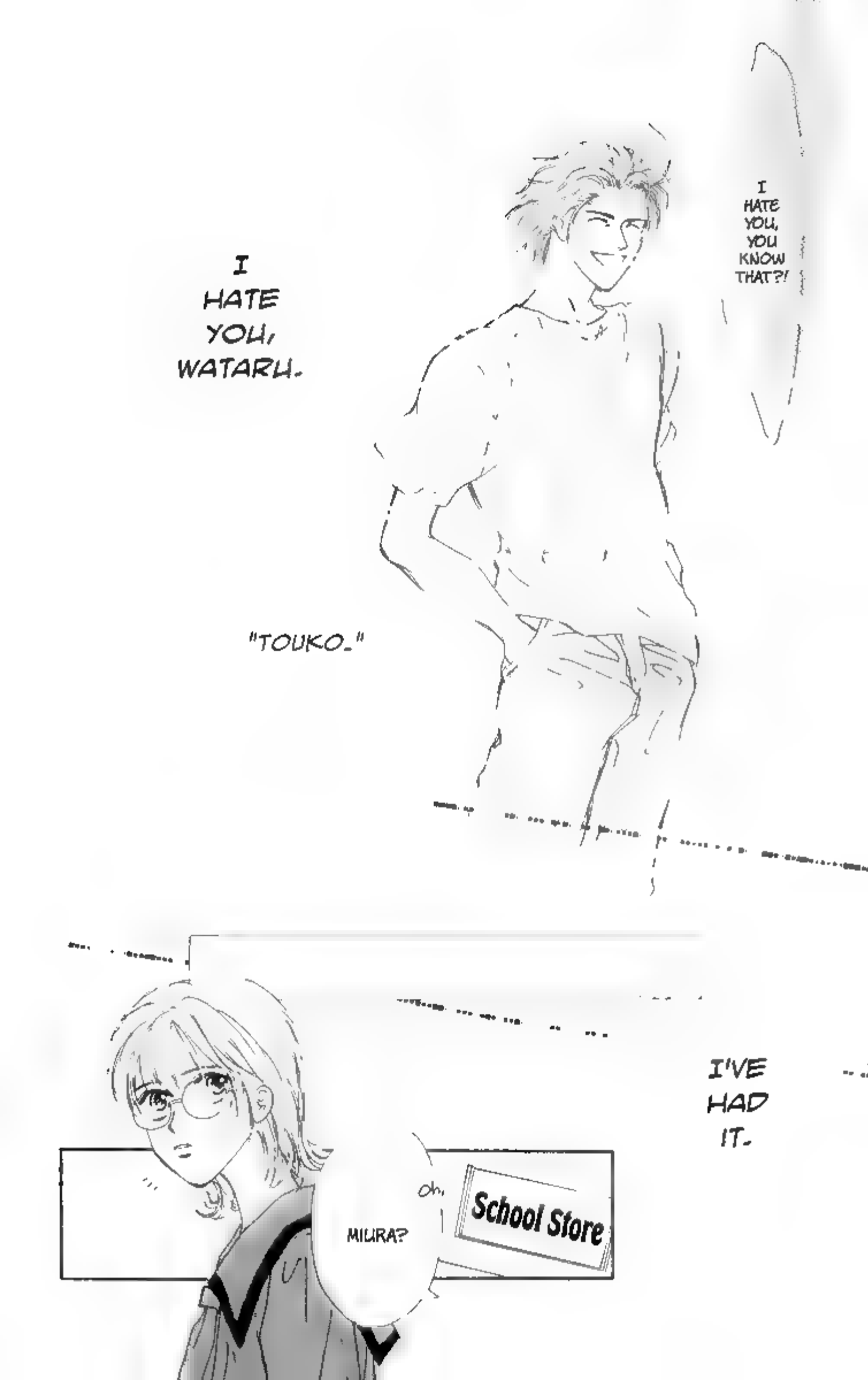
I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO GO!
JOCKS THAT SEEM EASYGOING LIKE HIM ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT, FORGET ABOUT HIM!
CHIKADA-SENPAI IS VERY SINCERE AND A NICE GUY!
I ALREADY SAID YES!
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
Irritated
Gasp
...

...
IS HE YOUR TYPE? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HE'S A LOT COOLER THAN A GUY WITH A HAIRSTYLE AS LAME AND SHOWY AS YOURS!
ENOUGH. STOP.
...
BUT...
MY MOUTH SEEMS TO HAVE A LIFE OF ITS OWN—
HE DOESN'T GO WELL...
WITH YOU.
SLAP!
...!!

OW...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE MY LIFE SO MISERABLE?!
I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT PROMISE FROM NINE YEARS AGO!
WHY?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SO UPSET ABOUT?
DOES THAT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ME?!

I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
DO YOU ENJOY HURTING ME...
THAT MUCH?!
TO-

I HATE YOU,
WATARU!!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE.
HE'S NOT MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND...
AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT PROMISE!
I BOLTED HOME JUST LIKE THAT.
KLUMP
QUIT MESSING WITH ME,
YOU, JERK!
PUSHING ME AROUND...
HURTING ME... MAKING FUN OF ME...
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!


I HATE YOU, WATARU.
I HATE YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?!
"TOUKO."
I'VE HAD IT.
MIURA?
oh,
School Store

2

All right... Once again, my recent drawing looks different from my previous work. Not that it's unusual. (LOL) So there. I'm not going to have you point that out to me. (LOL) Thank you. Anynow, the first chapter was originally a one-shot. That's why the art is a little different from the rest of the chapters. The more I get used to drawing the characters, the bigger their eyes get. I wonder why...

* Wataru in his early teens

Wataru's haircut wasn't well-received. (LOL) This one-shot was shortly followed by another stand-alone short story. It was no surprise that I inadvertently made the hairstyle of the hero of the other story a lot like Wataru's. I received letters saying they looked alike. (LOL) By the way, I have no plans to include the other one-shot in any compiled volume yet. I apologize to those who requested it in their letters. Please be patient.

IT'S— IT'S OK! YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
HA HA HA. I DON'T MIND.
I BOUGHT EXTRA TO EAT AFTER SCHOOL.
As thanks for the other day
LET ME SHARE WITH YOU, THEN.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIX MY LUNCH THIS MORNING.
I SEE.
HAVING BREAD TODAY?
CHIKADA-SENPAI...
Oba-chan! Hurry!
YEAH.
I PLAN TO KEEP PLAYING BASEBALL IN COLLEGE.
SENPAI, YOU'RE STILL ACTIVE IN THE BASEBALL CLUB, AREN'T YOU?
Though you're already a third year
Thank you so much!
Toll
OH...

with black coffee
It's a mix...
WATARU!
Ah, I got the wrong one!
!
OUR EYES JUST MET...
WATARU...
MIURA?

Y-
YES?
WHAT?
GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER NOW THAT YOU HAVE NO USE FOR ME?
WHAT TIME...
SHOULD WE MEET UP TO-MORROW?
JERK!
JUST WHO IS THE HEARTLESS ONE HERE?
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE ANGRY, REMEMBER?!
THAT LITTLE...

I'M HUNGRY.
HOW ABOUT WE FIND SOMEPLACE TO EAT?
I'M NOT LIKING THIS.
UH,
OK.
Cafe Restaurant MESHI
SEE IF I CARE!!

...
Peppers and onions
Swoop
Swoop
AM I READING TOO MUCH INTO IT?
Here's your order
I THOUGHT PEOPLE WHO PLAY SPORTS EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
Not that it matters.
HE DIDN'T EAT ALL OF THE LUNCH I GAVE HIM THE OTHER DAY, EITHER.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
IN A WAY THAT MADE ME SQUIRM.
SENPAI KEPT TOUCHING MY HANDS AND LEGS...
EVEN IN THE MOVIE THEATER,
!
Shoke
Shoke
Gasp
BUT HE NEVER LEFT A SINGLE CRUMB.
WATARU WOULD COMPLAIN,

VSPECIAL THANKSV
K SAGAWA
M TAKESHITA

I WONDER IF HE'S OUT SHOPPING FOR HIS BASKETBALL SHOES.
ALONE?
OR WITH ANOTHER GIRL?
Throb
!
WATARU?!
Jolt
WHAT AM I DOING?
ALL DAY...
Karaoke HOUSE
Dolala
Karaoke
I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT THINK ABOUT WATARU.
Karaoke
AH...
MIURA!
Thump

LOOM
?
WHO CARES...
WHAT THAT JERK...
IS DOING RIGHT NOW?
SENPAI?
Shocked
?!!
WH-
WHAT_?
Crawl
Scoot
S-
S-
COME ON.
IT'S JUST
THE TWO OF
US HERE.
SENPAI?!

This is the heroine

KICK
Whack
Now
THIS IS JUST GROSS!
EWW!
Huff
Huff
Push
NO!
WATARU!
Huff
Huff
Huff
AH...

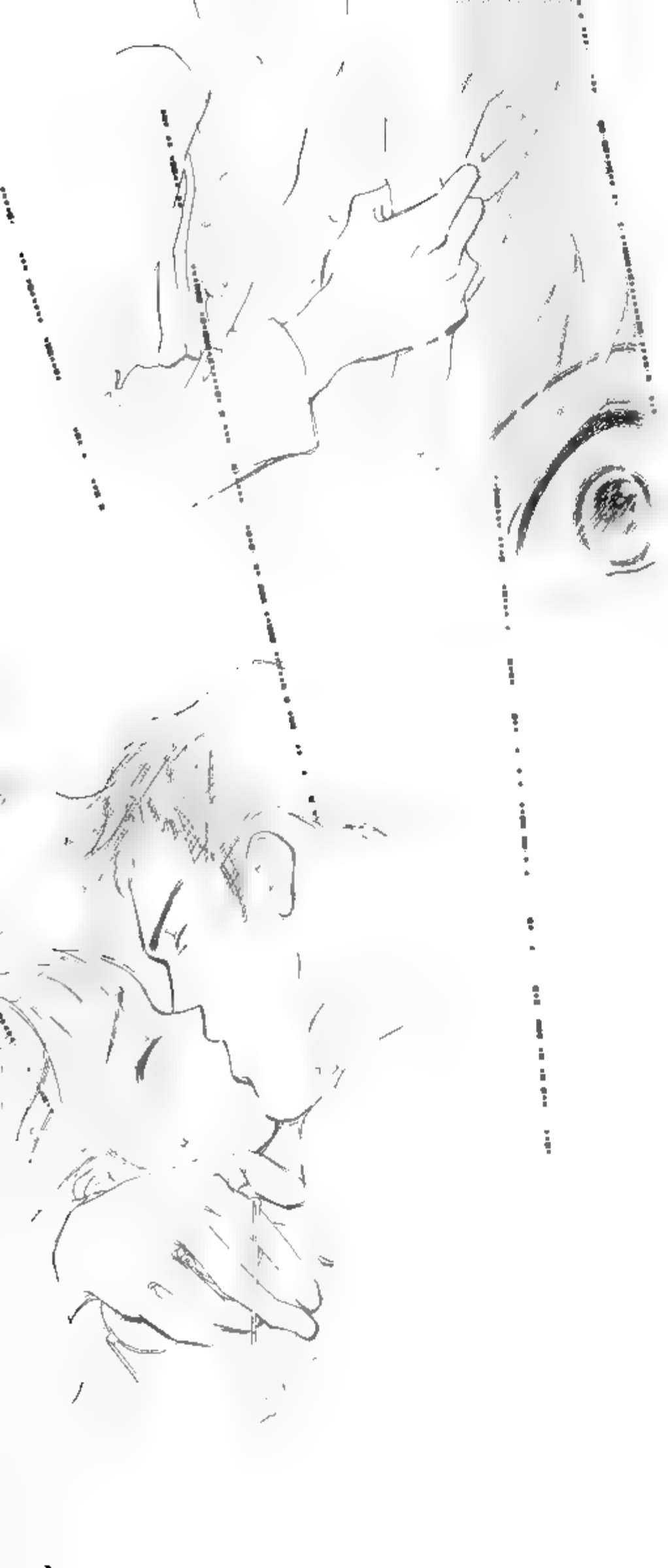
SHEESH. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO SIT THERE?
LET'S GO HOME.
!!
Yank
ACK!
WATARU...
WATARU!!
OW!
WATARU!
YOU'RE HURTING MY HAND.

ARE YOU STUPID OR WHAT?!
WATA-
WHY DID YOU JUST GO WITH HIM SO BLINDLY?
THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING SO DITZY!
AND WHY THE HELL DID YOU DRESS LIKE THAT?!
BLUSH
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE!
WHAT?!

Look!
Yerk!
PERSONALLY, I THOUGHT I LOOKED GREAT!
I'M FREE TO WEAR WHATEVER I WANT!
SORRY THIS OUTFIT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME!
Hey!
Whack
Whack
Whack
OW!
WHY...
ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?!
WHAT?!
Swish
WHOA.
Thud
LET GO!
ARGH! DAMN YOU, WATARU!

Blink
HEY...
CAN'T YOU CALM DOWN...
AND LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GET IT CUT!
You mean fluffy like a cat!
Sticks out, like a baby chicken
YOUR HAIR...
WHERE DID IT GO?
HUH?
YOU SAID IT LOOKED LAME, REMEMBER?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
Tickel

UH, THAT'S NOT IT
IT'S JUST..
SHEESH.
TSK
NO WAY... JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?
BUT...
I ONLY SAID THAT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT...
WHAT, YOU STILL DON'T LIKE IT?
GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
Grab
Take
EEP!
?!
DON'T EVER WEAR CONTACTS.
HEY, GIVE THEM B—
AREN'T GLASSES MORE THAN ENOUGH?



BECAUSE MY FACE...
IS ALL YOU NEED TO SEE WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF.

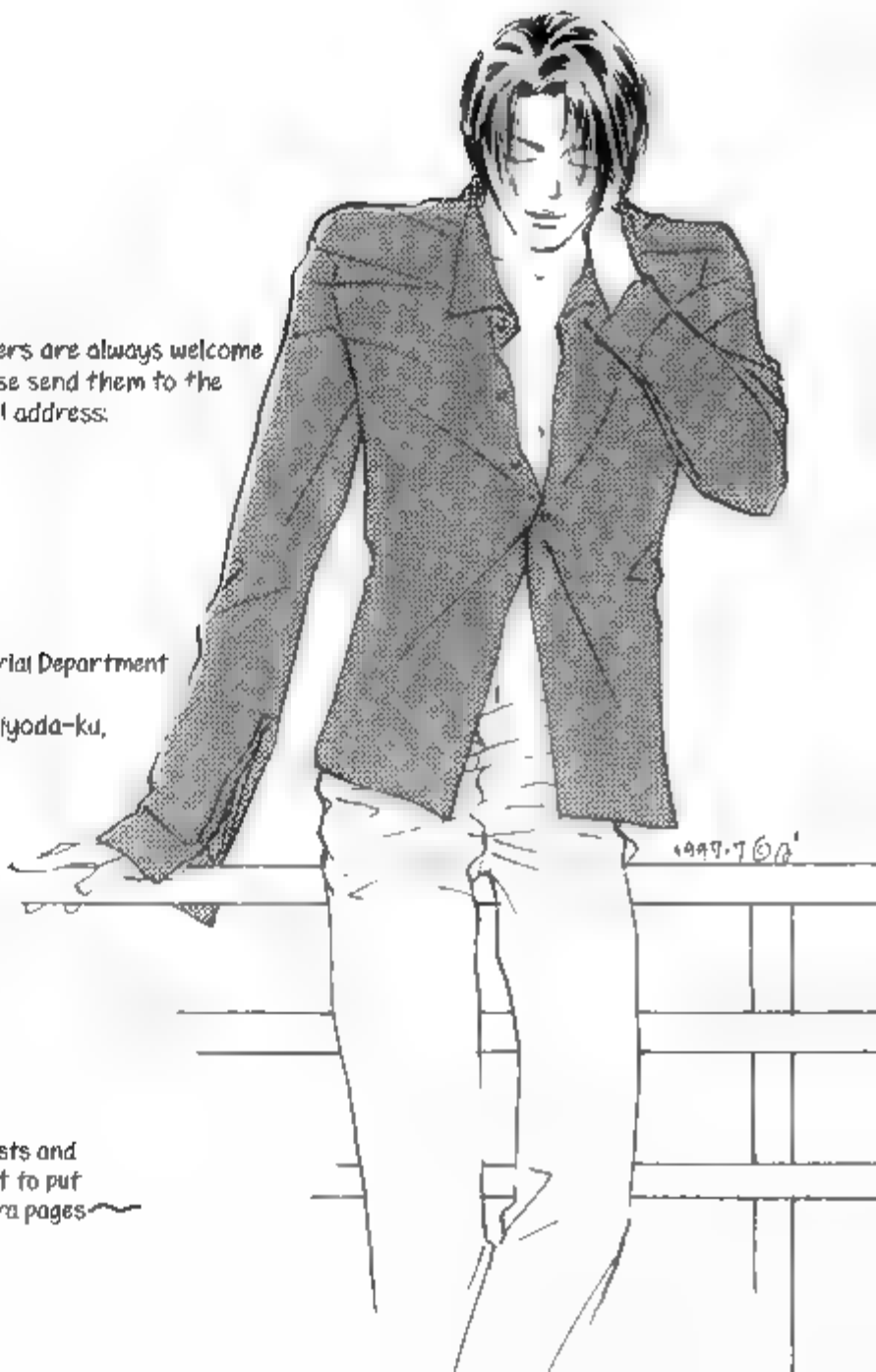
I KNEW IT.
HOW CAN I RESIST HIM...
WHEN HE GIVES ME THAT LOOK?
HE IS A DEMON.
SO THE PROMISE FROM NINE YEARS AGO...

SO...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED?
STILL...
THAT-
YOU...
YEAH.
ON THE NIGHT BEFORE I MOVED.
WILL FOREVER BELONG ONLY TO ME,
TOKO-CHAN.
Argh
THAT WAS NO PROMISE!
ANYWAY, TOUKO,
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS HAIRCUT.
YOU KNOW, MY OLD HAIRSTYLE LOOKED GREAT ON ME.
Sigh
THE GIRLS WERE BAWLING ABOUT IT JUST NOW.
Hmm... what should I ask you to do for me?
WHAT?!
SNAP

THIS EVIL, CONCEITED, SELFISH...
DEMON OF MINE...
Ah ha ha ha!
You evil narcissist!
AND...
TODAY,
ONCE AGAIN,
SMILES...
LIKE AN ANGEL.
《The End》
1996 9 27

✱ Letters are always welcome
Please send them to the
usual address:

Fujii Akemi,
Bessatsu Margaret Editorial Department
Shueisha,
2-5-10, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 101-50



I'll be waiting for requests and
suggestions about what to put
in the quarter and extra pages～

ON THE NIGHT WE PARTED NINE YEARS AGO,

WITH CRYSTAL-LIKE TEARS IN HIS EYES,
MY ANGELIC CHILDHOOD FRIEND SAID TO ME,

"YOU WILL FOREVER BELONG ONLY TO ME, TOKO-CHAN."

IN THIS CASE, ANGEL MEANS DEMON.

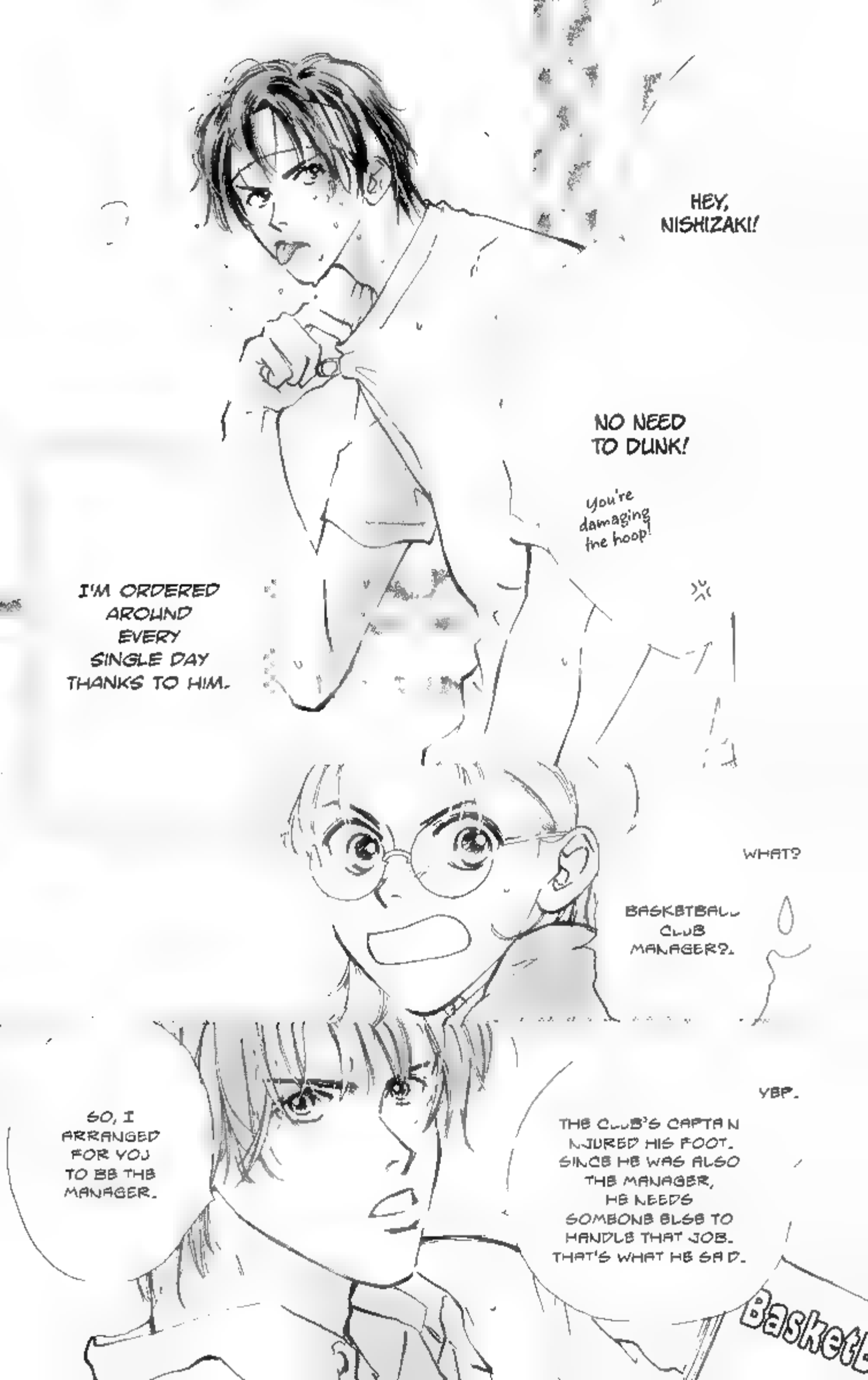
Kind DEMON

~How to Artificially Feed an Able Wolf~

WOLF
BOY

Bounce!
HALF A YEAR AGO,
A CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO'S A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME, RETURNED TO JAPAN AFTER LIVING ABROAD FOR NINE YEARS.
DASH
PASS! PASS!
YEAH, THAT'S IT!
Clang Clang
DASH
DASH

CAPTAIN,
THE DRINKS ARE HERE!
OH, THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK, MANAGER.
DON'T LET HIM GET THROUGH!
Sigh
DASH
DU
NK
KEEP UP THE DEFENSE!


HEY, NISHIZAKI!
NO NEED TO DUNK!
you're damaging the hoop!
I'M ORDERED AROUND EVERY SINGLE DAY THANKS TO HIM.
WHAT?
BASKETBALL CLUB MANAGER?!
YEP.
THE CLUB'S CAPTAIN INJURED HIS FOOT. SINCE HE WAS ALSO THE MANAGER, HE NEEDS SOMEONE ELSE TO HANDLE THAT JOB. THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
SO, I ARRANGED FOR YOU TO BE THE MANAGER.
Basketb

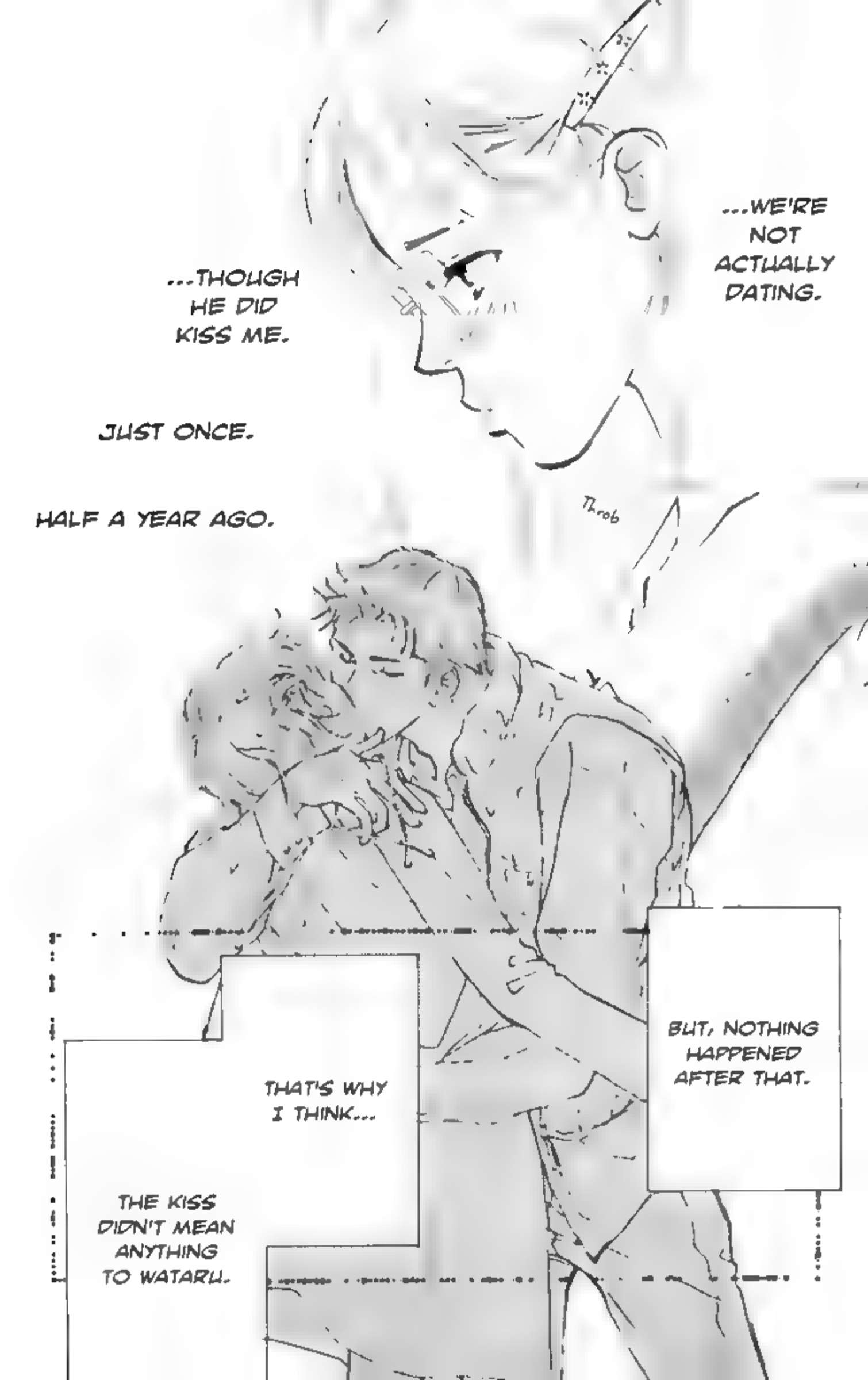
HE WENT AHEAD AND INVOLVED ME WITHOUT ASKING MY OPINION AGAIN!
Whisper
I'M ALREADY IN MY FINAL YEAR. IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO BE INVOLVED WITH SOMB CLUB!
WAIT A MINUTE, WATARU!
COLD-HEARTED.
PLUS I'LL HAVE TO QUIT—
Jeez, Toko-Chan.
Pinch
I'm Begging you with my head Bowed down, all right?
Don't say such words again.
JUST WHEN DID YOU BOW YOUR HEAD?
HE WAS SUCH A SWEET ANGEL NINE YEARS AGO...
IN THE END, I COULDN'T SAY NO... I'M SO PATHETIC.

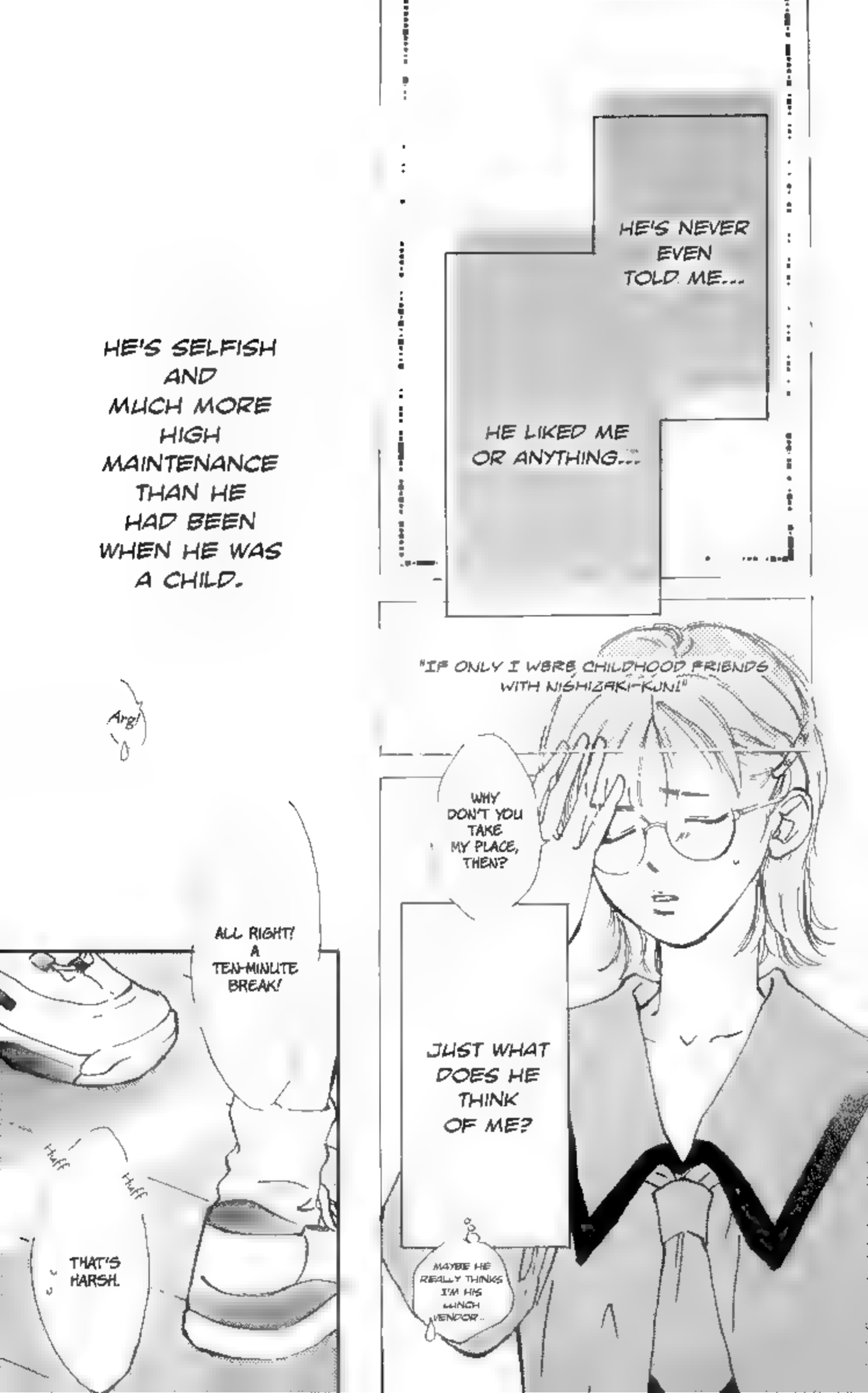
HE WAS SHORT AND A CRYBABY,
SO HE BECAME THE TARGET OF BULLIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
Don't cry anymore.
Urgh...
2-7
THE SWEET, SWEET...
WATARU-CHAN...
WITH A SMILE THAT RESEMBLED THE FLOWERS IN SPRING,
I'D LOVE TO HAVE DASHIMAKI TAMAGO* TOMORROW.
BUT...

*Rolled egg omelet. You can see how it's made here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shzK2oTU_I4

Living on your own is such a pain.
LOOKING AFTER THE TEAM MEMBERS' HEALTH IS ALSO PART OF THE MANAGER'S DUTY, YOU KNOW.
DO I LOOK LIKE YOUR LUNCH VENDOR?!
Some miso pickles would be nice
AND SOME SAWARA*, TOO.
*Japanese mackerel
THAT SMILE IS EVIL.
DASHI-MAKI.
GULP
!
Dart
YOU'LL FALL IF YOU KEEP RUNNING.
Old man.
FINE! IF YOU LEAVE ANY FOOD, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
Damn it!
I'M BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO GETTING UP AT 6 EVERY MORNING JUST TO MAKE HIS LUNCH.
Damn him!
SHEESH!
FOR SOMEONE RAISED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, HE SURE HAS A WAY WITH WORDS!
LOOK, IT'S HER.
SUCH NERVE!

NISHIZAKI-KUN'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
I THINK SO. SHE PACKS HIS LUNCH EVERY DAY.
No way!
ARE THEY GOING OUT, THEN?
UGH.
She went that far?
SHE'S ALREADY IN HER FINAL YEAR, BUT SHE STILL BOTHERED TO JOIN THE BASKETBALL CLUB TO BE THEIR MANAGER.
SHE LOOKS MORE ORDINARY THAN I EXPECTED.
Doesn't she?
SHE'S SO LUCKY! IF ONLY I WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WITH NISHIZAKI-KUN!
YOU? NAH.
AH, SHE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!
No—
Eek
SCARY!
NO...


...WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY DATING.
...THOUGH HE DID KISS ME.
JUST ONCE.
HALF A YEAR AGO.
Throb
BUT, NOTHING HAPPENED AFTER THAT.
THAT'S WHY I THINK...
THE KISS DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO WATARU.


HE'S NEVER EVEN TOLD ME...
HE LIKED ME OR ANYTHING...
HE'S SELFISH AND MUCH MORE HIGH MAINTENANCE THAN HE HAD BEEN WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.
"IF ONLY I WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WITH NISHIZAKI-KUN!"
Arg!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MY PLACE, THEN?
JUST WHAT DOES HE THINK OF ME?
MAYBE HE REALLY THINKS I'M HIS LUNCH VENDOR..
ALL RIGHT! A TEN-MINUTE BREAK!
Huff
Huff
THAT'S HARSH.

WATARU!
FOR REAL, captain?
Thank you!
you did great!
THAT'S BECAUSE THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
DON'T LET THIS TIRE YOU OUT, FIRST YEARS!
HUH?
FOUND YOU AT LAST!

MMMM!
!!
Bleached wh te
YOU-
KAME?!
Mm
WHY ARE YOU IN JAPAN?!
WAIT A MINUTE
Whoa!
Spurt
UH...

You've gotten taller again!
SINCE YOU RETURNED TO JAPAN.
YOU HAVEN'T BOTHERED TO CONTACT ME..
Smooch
TO SEE YOU, OF COURSE!
Sheesh
!!
Shock
Ahhh!
JEEZ, KAME,
IF YOU WANTED TO COME VISIT, YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST CALLED ME IN ADVANCE.
Shock
WHO-
WHO-
Shock
Shock
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPIER IF I MADE IT A SURPRISE VISIT.
Owww
YOU WISH, MORON.
WHO-

WHY DID SHE...
K-
KI-
KISS... WATARU?!
UM...
WHO IS SHE?!
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
OOPS, SORRY
NISHI-ZAKI?
N-
D-
DAMN YOU...
hee hee
SILENT
THIS IS MY FORMER NEIGHBOR FROM WHEN I LIVED IN GERMANY. SOMEONE WHO'S TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN US,
UGH!
TSURUTA KAME-
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME TO MY SCHOOL?
WOW.
DUMB-FOUNDED.
Whisper
Whisper
.....
SCARY
WHO IS SHE?
SHE KEEPS THE NISHIZAKI IN CHECK.
MY NAME IS ERICA.
I'm 14.
SAD

HUH?
YOUR LOVELY TOKO-CHAN IS HERE IN THIS SCHOOL, RIGHT?
I WANTED TO SEE THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND YOU WERE BRAGGING ABOUT.
ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS, AREN'T YOU?
TOUKO.
?!
WHAT?!
TOUKO.
HUH?
WHOA, SHE'S TALL.
??

Huh?
WH-
WHAT...?
What's a grade school student doing here?
?
DIDN'T YOU SAY SHE WAS OLDER?
Ja.
SHE TURNS 18 THIS YEAR.
WHAT'S THIS?
Pawl
SMACK
DON'T TOUCH HER SO FREELY
THIS THING'S THE REASON YOU-?!
Aufhören!
(Stop it')
THIS THING-
UGH?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THIS TARSIER*!!
*In Japanese it is megamezaru literally 'bespectacled monkey'
TARSIER FRIEND SOUTH ASIA**
FULL LENGTH 12*** ~ 21 cm
SHOCK
WHAT?!
!!
**This is a mistake. Tarsiers are found in South East Asia
***Wiki says it's 10 to 15 cm for head and body, and 20 to 28 cm for tail.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarsier

GLOOMY
...
HEY, IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
STILL, BEING CALLED A 'TARSIER' MUST HAVE BEEN A BLOW.
Even if it is an accurate description.
WATARU-KUN AND THE PRETTY GIRL WENT HOME TOGETHER.
ON TOP OF THAT,
There's that...
YEAH...
DID SHE HAVE TO SAY THAT...
TO SOMEONE SHE HAD JUST MET?!!

Sigh
...
Mumble
MAYBE I SHOULD WEAR CONTACTS...
Yep
Uh-oh. She's scowling
Why are you tagging along?
Glare
AND SHE STILL DELIVERS HIS LUNCH DUTIFULLY.
Sigh
THAT'S TOUKO FOR YOU.
YOU'RE LATE, TOUKO.
I'M STARVING TO DEATH.
Squeal
Whee!
It's Nishizaki-kun!
OH, GOOD AFTER-NOON.
Squeal
W-
WATARU!

STOP PULLING ON MY CHEEKS. IT HURTS, YOU KNOW.
WHAT'S FOR LUNCH TODAY?
DID YOU PUT IN THE DASHIMAKI? AND THE SAWARA?
You're not listening, huh?
I DID.
GREAT.
THUMP
WAIT...
WHAT'S THE POINT IN ASKING HIM THAT?
TODAY'S THE DAY YOU NORMALLY HAVE DINNER WITH MY FAMILY, RIGHT? MOM ASKED THAT YOU LET HER KNOW BY PHONE IF YOU WANTED TO EAT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.
UH...
YEAH, OK, SURE.
...
HM?
WATARU.
UM...

WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A MONKEY.
Oh!
ANYWAY,
!!
Shock
DIDN'T I MAKE IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT CONTACTS ARE A BIG NO-NO?
Don't you dare forget it
Explode
Ne-n conte
Sigh
OH, DEAR.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, TOUKO.
CURSE HIM!
CURSE HIM!
Later
I AM SO GOING TO PUT LAXATIVE IN YOUR LUNCH!
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANT.
That brat!
YEAH! POOR ME! I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIM EVERY MORNING!
SEE YA AT BASKET-BALL PRACTICE.

...

BUT...

...IT'S NOT LIKE HE ASKED ME NICELY TO MAKE HIS LUNCH...

?

SHE DOESN'T GET IT AT ALL.

...?

NOT GOOD.

WHAT?

AH, WELL, THAT'S ONE OF HER GOOD POINTS.

BOYS' BASKETBALL CLUB

Blam

HE *FORCED* ME INTO DOING IT...

THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS...

JUST DYING TO MAKE HIM LUNCH.

What's with that pose?
Guten Tag!
TARSIER!
SHE'S HERE!!!
Boys' Basketball Club
DON'T CALL ME KAME!
IT'S ERICA!
Flush
Eep!
I-I'M SORRY!
In our school
WHY IS SHE HERE AGAIN?
Hmph.
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TO SEE ME.
UH, NO,
KAME-SAN.

Stare
Stare
It's not Kame! I'm not Kame!
GLARE
B-B-B-BUT I REMEMBER WATARU CALLING YOU KAME-SAN—
I DON'T MIND IF IT'S HIM!
UH—
SO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A NICE GIRL.
I SEE...
DON'T ADD -SAN AFTER KAME! JUST DON'T!
I HAVE TO RUN—
Grab!
YIPES!
HANG ON.
WHAT'S A BENTOU?
HUH?

I SAID, WHAT'S A BENTOU?! B-E-N-T-O-U!!
SO YOU'RE NOT JUST A TARSIER! YOU'RE ALSO AN IDIOT!
STOMP
17 years old
14 years old
STOMP
HER WAY OF SPEAKING REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE...
WHAT OBENTO MEANS? LET'S SEE...
UH,
MIDDAY MEAL.
MIDDAY MEAL?
YOU MEAN LUNCH?
Lunchpacker?
HE SAID HE MADE A PROMISE WITH YOU TO EAT THE LUNCH YOU PREPARED.
HUH?
I WANTED TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM TODAY.
HUH?
BUT HE SAID TOKO PROMISED TO MAKE HIM LUNCH EVERY DAY.
THUMP

NO,
I DIDN'T PROMISE HIM...
ANY-THING...
HE'S THE ONE...
WHO MADE ME DO IT
Uhm...
OH. THEN YOU DON'T ENJOY DOING IT?
HUH?
IT'S JUST WATARU IS ALWAYS SO SELFISH.
N-
"THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS JUST DYING TO MAKE HIM LUNCH"
NO...
NO,
I SOUND LIKE I'M MAKING EXCUSES.
SO...
AND HE THINKS HE CAN ASK ANYTHING OF ME JUST BECAUSE WE'RE OLD FRIENDS...
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE IT...

WHY...?
YOU DON'T GET HIM, HUH?
WHAT ...?
I'M HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND, TOO. I GUESS HE SPENT MORE YEARS WITH ME THAN WITH YOU.
!!
"CHILDHOOD FRIEND"...
WE MAY NOT BE THE SAME AGE, BUT WE GET ALONG EXTREMELY WELL.
THAT'S NEARLY TEN YEARS, I THINK?
BEEN HANGING OUT WITH HIM SINCE HE CAME TO GERMANY.

THUMP
THIS IS SOMEBODY...
WHO WAS A PART OF WATARU'S LIFE IN THE NINE YEARS THAT I WASN'T.
Throb
I FINALLY REALIZED SOME-THING.
DO YOU LIKE WATARU?
HEY,

IF YOU DON'T,
THEN I CAN TAKE HIM BACK TO GERMANY WITH ME, RIGHT?

IT DIDN'T MATTER IF HE BOSSED ME AROUND,

I FEEL...

OR TWISTED ME AROUND HIS LITTLE FINGER...

LIKE AN IDIOT.

BECAUSE I BELIEVED THAT I WAS CLOSER TO HIM THAN ANYONE,

SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE HIS HEART...

Boing
"AFTER ALL, I AM HIS 'CHILDHOOD FRIEND'..."
REBOUND!
BUT...
Roar
WHOOP
NISHIZAKI!
This way!
"TAKE HIM BACK" WITH HER?
Squeak
YOU!
IDIOT! CAN'T YOU BEND YOUR KNEES?
FIRST YEAR, GET YOUR LEGS MOVING!
WAS SHE SERIOUS?
Squeak
Squeak

3

When we decided to make *Yasashii Akuma* a short series, my editor told me to change Wataru's hairstyle back to the long one. Therefore, his hair is long again.

...Well, that was fine because I like long-haired guys anyway.

But since I had no intention of continuing the story (while it was still a one-shot), I unknowingly made his hair— a combination of ink and screentones— a painful job for myself.

I felt like giving myself a big kick...

Besides, this guy is around 15 to 16 years old.

...He looks older, hun? (LOL)

(He behaves like a kid, though.)

And he's pretty well built.

The guys I draw are all tall, but don't big guys make you feel safe?

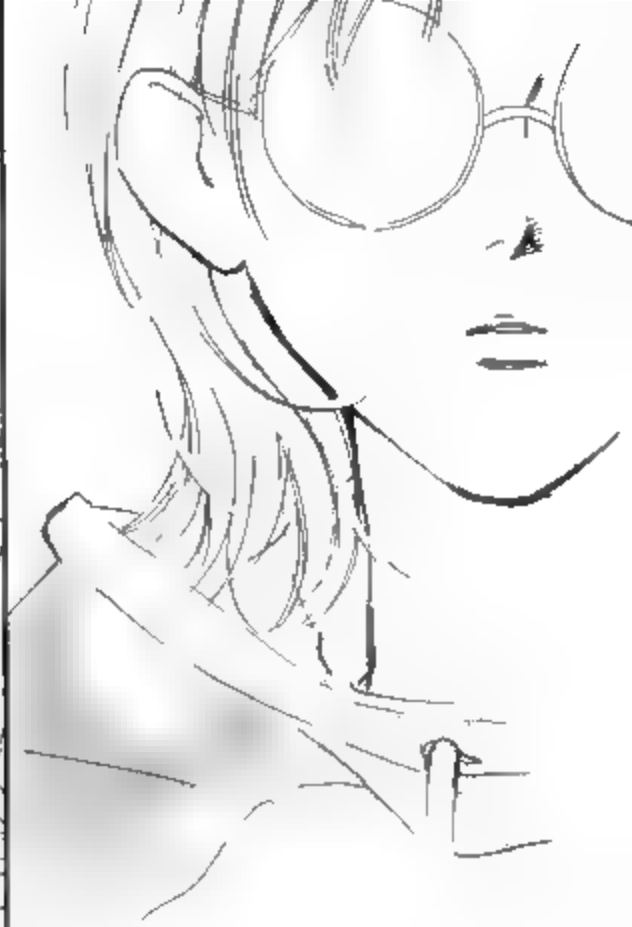
...Sort of.

Huh? They don't?

No way.

SHE KNOWS HIM...
BETTER THAN I DO.
YOU'RE TOTALLY INSENSITIVE TO WHAT YOUR BODY'S TELLING YOU!
SIT DOWN. I'LL WRAP IT UP FOR YOU.
HMM.
I'VE TOLD YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT BECAUSE YOU'VE HURT IT BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
HUH?
I HAVE?
YOU'VE AVOIDED USING YOUR LEFT FOOT THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GAME. I KNOW IT'S GIVING YOU A HELLISH AMOUNT OF PAIN!

SHE'S MUCH CLOSER TO WATARU THAN I'VE EVER BEEN.



SHE'S...

That's it, guys!

Dismissed!

Aye, aye, sir!

Boo!
you weigh a ton!
AH, TOUKO, CAN THIS IDIOT COME WITH ME TO YOUR PLACE TODAY?
LIKE I COULD, IDIOT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL! YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER!
You!
I ALREADY TOLD YOUR MOM TO PREPARE A MEAL FOR ONE MORE PERSON, ANYWAY.
HUH?!
Twob
COME ON, I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
COULDN'T YOU SKIP SCHOOL OR SOMETHING?
WHY...?
Jolt
!!
OF COURSE NOT!
Blush
WHATEVER, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES ME.
LOOK. SHE'S GOT "OH, NO!" WRITTEN ALL OVER HER FACE.
SHE DOESN'T WANT THAT, WATARU.

HAVING HER MAKE ALL THAT EFFORT, JUST FOR US, WOULD BE OFFENSIVE.
NO ...
SHE'S ...
SHE ALSO SAID THAT HAVING TO PREPARE YOUR BENTOU IS A PAIN.
Shuuu
HUH?
WHAT?!
EVEN IF SHE HATES IT, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE,
SINCE YOU FORCED HER INTO DOING IT.
I NEVER SAID THAT!!
AH...
.. UM...

WHY...
DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME DIRECTLY?
N-
NO...
I...
IS THAT TRUE?
!!
DIDN'T
..
Flinch

open
GOOD THING YOU'RE HERE!
grip
MIURA, TOMORROW—
GLARE
UH?!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
...
So long
Tschüß!
Spin
UH,
MIURA?

SO NISHIZAKI INJURED HIS LEFT ANKLE AROUND TWO YEARS AGO, HUH?
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
...
I DIDN'T KNOW...
ABOUT IT, EITHER.
WATARU, YOU IDIOT...
MAYBE I SHOULD SHOW YOU HOW TO DO THE TAPING.
HE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU DO IT FOR HIM, DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH?
Here you go.
Thanks

GRIP
RIGHT? HE'S AWFULLY ATTACHED TO YOU, EH?
THAT'S ...
OR CLINGY, MORE LIKE.
WHEN HE'S WITH YOU, IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S WAGGING HIS TAIL.
Heh.
Thinks of him as an animal.
OF COURSE NOT
Throb
I'M SURE...
HE ONLY SEES ME AS SOMEBODY HE CAN ORDER AROUND OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I NOW...
UNDERSTAND...

HE NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT HIS LEFT ANKLE.
...THAT MY BEING HIS 'CHILDHOOD FRIEND'...
HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO EXPLAIN...
THAT KISS THEY SHARED...
DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM.
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T THINK...
IT WAS NECESSARY...
...HA HA.

CLANG
NICE SHOT.
HUH?
I MEAN THIS THING.
Yo.
HURL
MAKES ME WORRY.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MANAGER.
HE'LL SULK IF YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO HIM.
ALSO, HE MIGHT PLAY ROUGH! IT WON'T BE GOOD IF HE HURTS HIMSELF BEFORE AN IMPORTANT MATCH, RIGHT?
JUST TRY TO CALM HIM DOWN, OK?

I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED.
STRANGE.
ARE YOU SURE HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING?
beep
MAMA
Y- YEAH.
thump
HE SAID HE WOULD COME OVER.
WRAP
SIGH. I CAN'T COUNT ON YOU FOR ANYTHING.
WELL, I SUPPOSE HE'LL BE FINE. HE IS MATURE FOR HIS AGE.
...
WHAT, YOU IDIOT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO GET MAD ON YOUR OWN.
"WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME DIRECTLY?"

HE'S NOT!
HE LIVES ALONE, REMEMBER? WHAT IF HE IS SICK AND LAID UP IN BED?!
TOUKO,
STOP BY WATARU-KUN'S APARTMENT BEFORE YOU GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW, WILL YOU?
WHAT?!
HE'S PROBABLY OUT SOMEWHERE WITH HER AGAIN...
Wince
"...THEN I CAN TAKE HIM BACK TO GERMANY WITH ME, RIGHT?"
NOT THAT SUDDENLY, ANYWAY...
EVEN IF HE'S A LITTLE MAD AT ME...
STILL, WHAT IF SHE SERIOUSLY PERSUADED HIM?
IT CAN'T BE... RIGHT?
...
*THANX • AL SON • M.NAE • KAZU
Just took a bath.

IF I REALLY FELT THAT WAY,
I WOULDN'T INCONVENIENCE MYSELF EVERY SINGLE MORNING.

I'LL EVEN INCLUDE HIS FAVORITE DASHIMAKI TAMAGO.

I'LL STILL PREPARE HIS LUNCH TOMORROW.

HE LOVES HAVING HIS LUNCH PACKED UP AND READY TO GO.

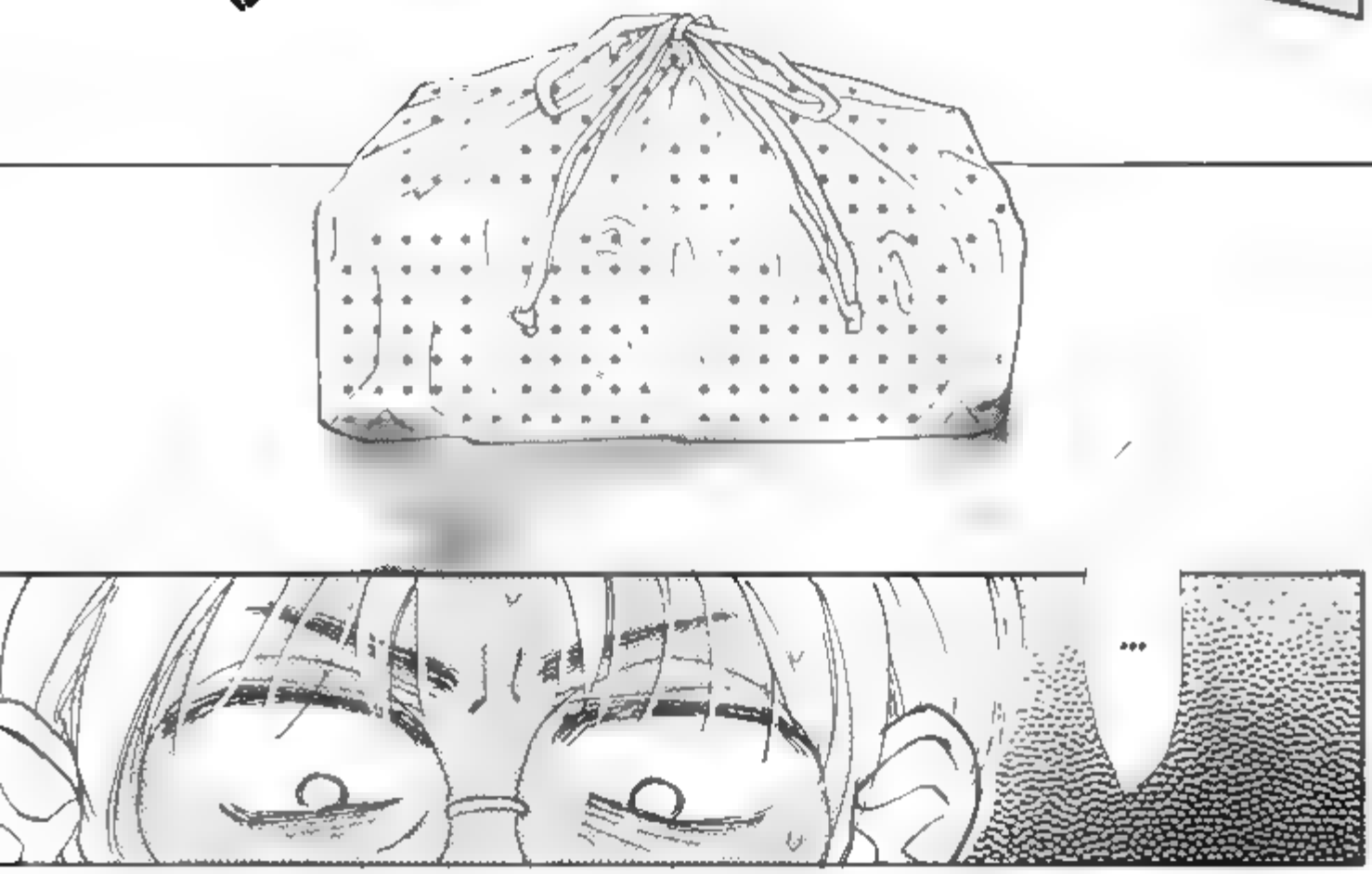
HIS FACE WILL LIGHT UP WITH A SMILE FOR SURE, LIKE IT USUALLY DOES.

I PROBABLY KNOW A LOT LESS ABOUT WATARU...
THAN SHE DOES.
BUT AT LEAST...
I KNOW THIS PART OF HIM WELL ENOUGH...
Hmph
Ding Dong
MISHIZAKI
Thump
Thump
Thump
Squeeze
Thump
Thump
Thump

Hush—
...?
Clatter!
Ding Dong
HAS HE ALREADY GONE TO SCHOOL?
what a let-down.
Ding Dong
Fumble
Click
WHOA!!
Open
WATA—
WHO IS IT?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO—

WHY...
Huh?
WHY IS SHE THE ONE ...?

Dang



You know, yesterday-
Let's go buy some bread.
WASN'T THAT FOR NISHIZAKI-KUN? YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM?
It's huge
HEY...
Why not just eat it?
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT YOUR FOOD?
fret fret fret
Yay! Lunchtime. lunchtime!
Chair
...
IF ONLY SOMEONE WOULD HIT ME WITH THIS.
OH,
IF IT ISN'T TARSIER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WENT TO HIS HOUSE JUST FOR THIS! AM I STUPID OR WHAT?

Yawn
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Scratch Scratch
HEY...
Dizzy
Dizzy
HEY!
Dizzy
WATARU'S IN THE BATHROOM.
Dash
?!
WHAT THE—
WHY IS SHE HERE?
AND LOOKING LIKE THAT?
YOU—
HEY!

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD RUN OFF.
I'm such a moron.
BUT PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY GO TO OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES IN THEIR PAJAMAS.
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...
THAT MEANS...
I knew it
THOSE WERE PROBABLY WATARU'S PAJAMAS SHE WAS WEARING... RIGHT?
I remember I was with him when he bought them.
AH!
WAIT A MINUTE... JUST LAST NIGHT?!
DON'T TELL ME ALL THIS TIME...
WATARU-KUN!
!!
Fumble
Fumble
Desk
AH,
She's scary
Mutter Mutter Mutter
Seated like in a family drama

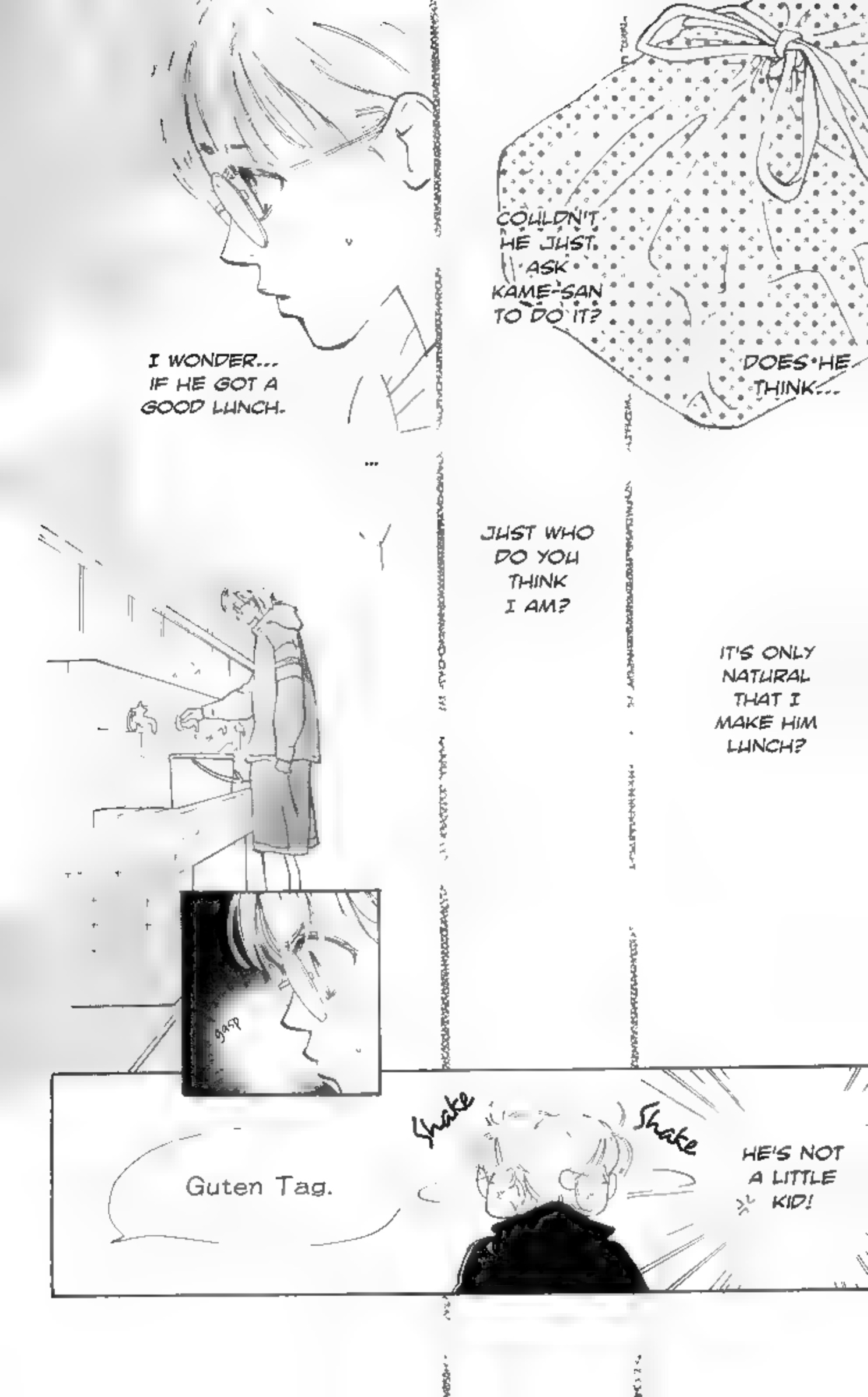
YIKES!
HEY!
Shove Shove
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING?
N-NO!
I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE FACE.
Blush
SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
I DIDN'T EVEN CALL YOU.
WENT OFF SOMEWHERE, AND THEN IT GOT LATE.

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHY IS HE ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?
MUFFED
WITH KAME-SAN?
HUH?
YEAH.
MOM WAS WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN SICK SUDDENLY.
AND WE HAD FOOD FOR TWO EXTRA PEOPLE, TOO!
Clench
I'M GETTING ANGRIER AND ANGRIER.
I EVEN WENT TO YOUR PLACE THIS MORNING.
OH, YEAH.
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HER PROPERLY OF COURSE.

KAME-SAN DIDN'T TELL YOU?
...?
THIS MORNING?
AH...
KAME?
ABOUT WHAT?
JUST NOW...
HE DIDN'T LOOK TOO PLEASED.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?

...
TOUKO?
FOOD?
WHERE'S MY LUNCH? I'M STARVING.
Flinch
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

"SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T LIKE MAKING YOUR LUNCH EITHER!"
I SEE.
Turn
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
Buuo
...
NONE.
...


I WONDER... IF HE GOT A GOOD LUNCH.
...
COULDN'T HE JUST ASK KAME-SAN TO DO IT?
DOES HE THINK...
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I MAKE HIM LUNCH?
gasp
Guten Tag.
Shake
Shake
HE'S NOT A LITTLE KID!

Bam
Bam
Bam
Oh!
Yeah!
UGH.
Hmph.
YOU LOOK HAPPY.
Bang
I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU.
?
WHAT DID YOU COME FOR THIS MORNING?
THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO SEE!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Angry
BEING OLD BUDDIES CAN BE A PAIN, EH?
DO YOU ALWAYS COME OVER AT THAT HOUR?
Bam
Bam
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, KAME-SAN.
Bam
Treaty
BUT YOU WERE AT WATARU'S PLACE!
CALL ME ERICA!
Touka
I Didn't come to see you or anything!
You little tarsier, you!
after getting me out of Bed this morning?!
You're giving me attitude...

4

Anyway, I've been trying my hand at container gardening. It's not fancy enough to call it real gardening, but I've been growing several kinds of small potted plants... like herbs or ornamental plants. It's fun to see the herbs sprout.

I'd love more pots filled with greenery, but it would be sad to see the plants die because I can't take care of them.
But when I have the time, I would like to get 2 or 3 types of ivy, baby's tears, and ferns. Right now, potted olives are on my most wanted list. I like miniatures, but they're not easy to spot. Somebody gave them to me. (LOL)
The biggest drawback about plants is the bugs that come with them. (I hate them like crazy.)
I'm also looking for all sorts of items, like cute pots or tools... I love terracotta pots— they're simple.

My current favorite is the provision tree. It's cute!

I'VE HAD IT WITH WATARU AND HER!
WHY ARE THEY BOTH ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?!
THEN WHY DID YOU RUN OFF?
YOU DIDN'T TELL WATARU ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
BECAUSE YOU RAN OFF LIKE THAT...
My throat...
MM?
Cough
A...
COLD?
MM? WAS IT COLD LAST NIGHT?
I WENT TO BED LATE, TOO.
Flush

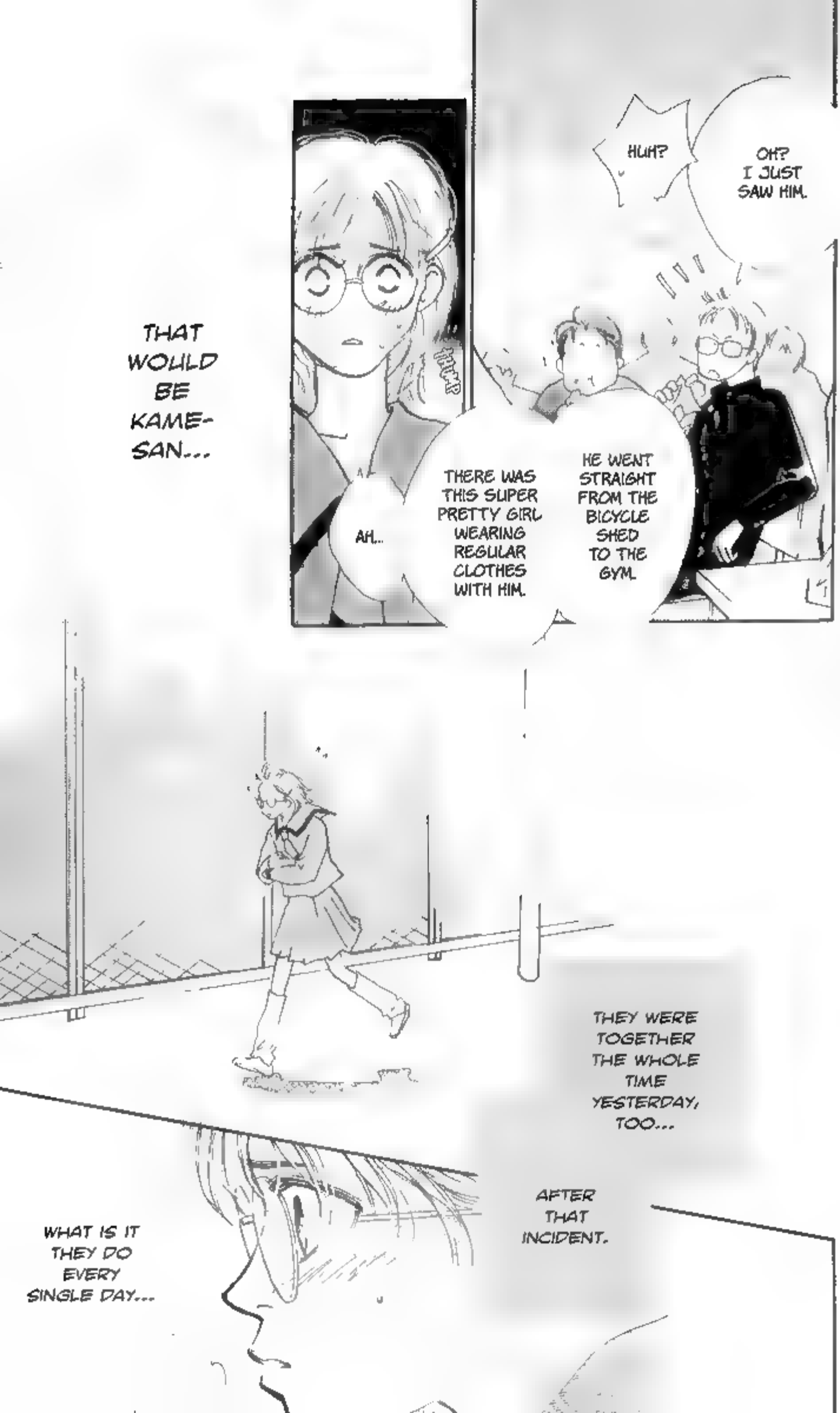
WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP...
KISSING WATARU IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE AND SPENDING THE NIGHT IN HIS ROOM...
DID THE TWO OF THEM HAVE...
BACK IN GERMANY?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL FOR HER?
THUMP
Squeak
Squeak
Squeak
Squeak
Cough
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING?
Huh?
HAVE YOU BEEN STAYING AT WATARU'S?
K-KAME-SAN... ALL THIS TIME...

WHAM
Shock
HUH?
YEAH.
!!
SHE...
?
SAID IT SO EASILY...
Sway
Clink
YOU LOOK WEIRD.
Means to say she looks pale

WATCH IT
DON'T SCARE US,
NISHA ZAKI.
BAM
Bam
Bam

WHAT...
IS IT?
OH, NO...
WATARU...
OK!
SUBSTI-TUTION!
IS HE...
REALLY ANGRY?
Thump
Thump
Thump

WELL...
IT'S NOT LIKE I MADE HIM LUNCH TODAY BECAUSE HE GOT ANGRY.
2-7
Twiddle
Twiddle
Twiddle
IT'S BECAUSE I PREPARED THE USUAL AMOUNT WITHOUT THINKING, AND I DON'T WANT TO WASTE IT.
THAT'S IT!
IS THAT YOU, MANAGER?
NISHIZAKI TOOK THE DAY OFF
UH!
DUNNO.
HEY, ANYBODY KNOW WHY NISHIZAKI DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL?
Slide
WHY?!
WHAT?
HE TOOK THE DAY OFF?!


THAT WOULD BE KAME-SAN...
AH...
THERE WAS THIS SUPER PRETTY GIRL WEARING REGULAR CLOTHES WITH HIM.
HE WENT STRAIGHT FROM THE BICYCLE SHED TO THE GYM.
HUH?
OH? I JUST SAW HIM.
THEY WERE TOGETHER THE WHOLE TIME YESTERDAY, TOO...
AFTER THAT INCIDENT.
WHAT IS IT THEY DO EVERY SINGLE DAY...

...JUST THE TWO OF THEM?
Bam
Bam
Bam
Squeak
Squeak
Squeak
...THE TRUTH IS BEING SHOVED IN MY FACE.
Throb
Throb
Throb
Bam
Bam

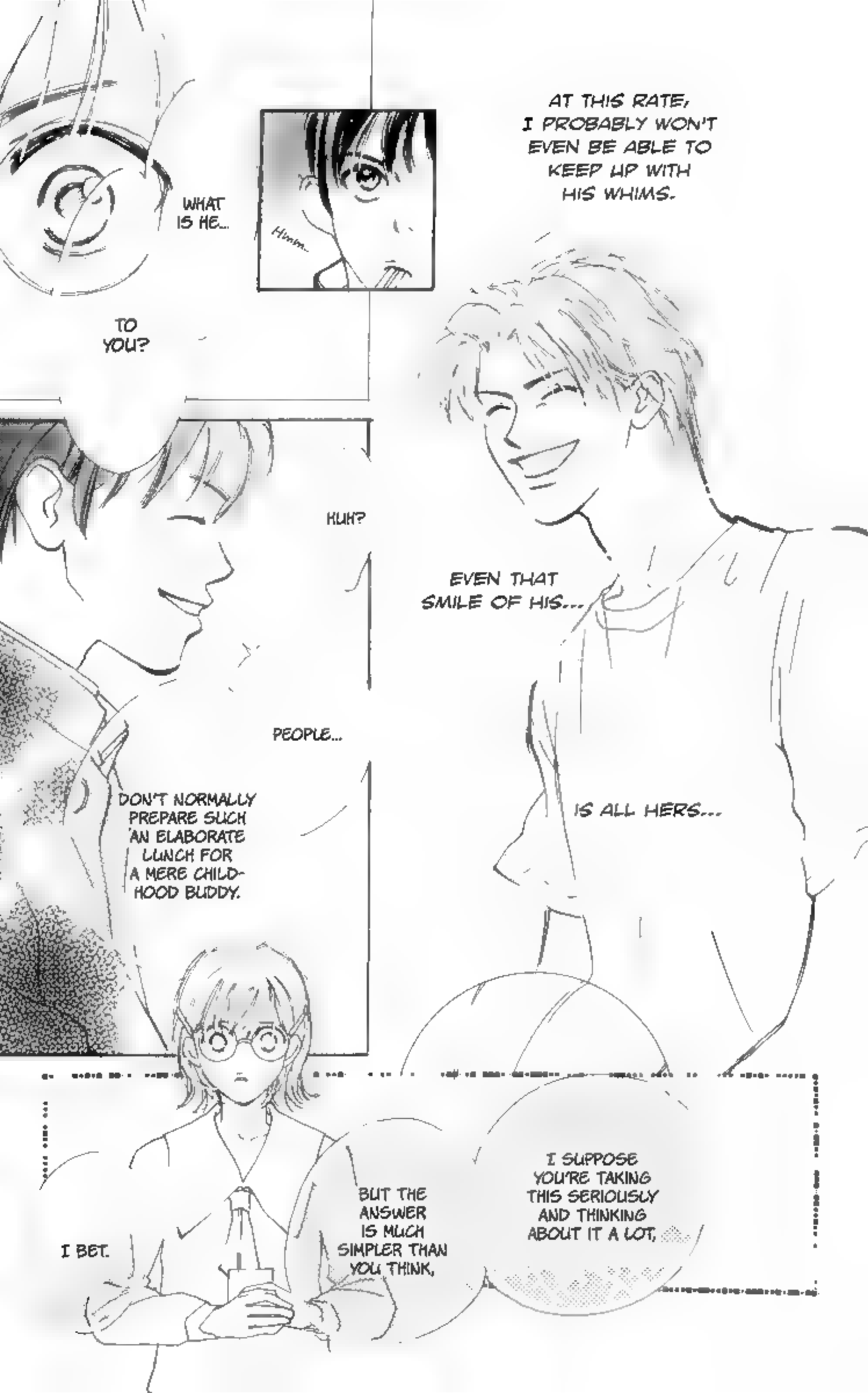
Throb

"I GUESS HE SPENT A LONGER TIME WITH ME THAN WITH YOU."

Throb

WHOA!
THUMP
THAT LOOKS GOOD.
SLAP
The door was open.
Uh...
C-CAPTAIN!
YOU DON'T USUALLY COME HERE AROUND THIS TIME.
ARE YOU HERE TO EAT YOUR LUNCH?
Alone?
Whew
5
UH, NO...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL LIKE IT, BUT I MADE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR MYSELF...
HUH?
Heh
I'LL TAKE IT.
Panic
Panic
AH!
THIS MUST LOOK LIKE LEFTOVER FOOD TO YOU! SORRY!!

I SNEAK IN SOME PACKAGED FOOD SOMETIMES,
Cool! I take my hat off to you.
IS IT ALWAYS THIS FANCY?
Munch Munch
Gasp
EVEN THOUGH WATARU HATES ANYTHING THAT ISN'T FRESH—
AH!
Bon appétit!
I WASN'T ABLE TO BUY ANY DECENT BREAD TODAY.
DELI-CIOUS.
Yum.
YOU MAKE THIS EVERY DAY?
I'M LIKE...
AN UNNEEDED LUNCH.
Heh.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T PATCHED THINGS UP WITH NISHIZAKI,
HUH?
I MADE HIM ANGRY AGAIN.


WHAT IS HE...
Hmm...
TO YOU?
AT THIS RATE, I PROBABLY WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH HIS WHIMS.
KUH?
EVEN THAT SMILE OF HIS...
PEOPLE...
DON'T NORMALLY PREPARE SUCH AN ELABORATE LUNCH FOR A MERE CHILD-HOOD BUDDY.
IS ALL HERS...
I BET.
BUT THE ANSWER IS MUCH SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK,
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY AND THINKING ABOUT IT A LOT,

TRAINING IN SPORTS
I'LL TEACH YOU THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION LATER.
We'll have training sessions
SO, HERE YOU GO.
HUH?
Ding
PLUS THE LEFT ANKLE.
Smile
...
WHAT WATARU IS TO ME?
Dong
THERE GOES THE BELL.
Ding
Dong
OPEN
DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE NUMBERS AND GET THEM READY
Thanks
AH, YES.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU WASHED THE UNIFORMS FOR THE UPCOMING GAME?
JOLT
OH.

Ah!
Shoot
See ya!
YOU'RE REALLY PUSHING YOURSELF.
HEY, NISHIZAKI. BEEN PRACTICING?
THANKS FOR THE FOOD, MIURA.
Cheeky
WATARU!
WHERE'S KAME-SAN?
Boys' Basketball Club
Keep the room clean!
Flush
HMPH.
N-NOTHING IN PARTICULAR!
...
GETTING CHUMMY, ARE YOU?
HUH?
WITH THE CAPTAIN.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?
MUTTER

Fall
WHY DID YOU SKIP SCHOOL?
JUST BECAUSE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WH-
YOU'RE THE ONE GETTING CHUMMY WITH HER!
I GUESS... SINCE THE BRAT WAS CUTE AS A KID.
Thud
Toss
YOU WERE WITH HER THE WHOLE TIME.
KAME?
HUH?
KAME-SAN... IS REALLY ATTRACTIVE...
LIAR.

Throb
Throb
WHAT DO YOU GUYS.. USUALLY DO TOGETHER?
...
PLAY BASKET-BALL.
THAT'S IT?
BASKET-BALL?
Throb
YUP.
NOTHING ELSE?
WHAT AM I TO HIM?!
WHERE IS KAME-SAN STAYING?
"WHAT IS HE TO YOU?"
SNAP
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?!
THEN WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?
Throb
Throb

Yank!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU SO HUNG UP ON KAME?!
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, OUT WITH IT ALREADY!
HE'S DODGING THE QUESTION.
THAT'S IT!
WHY...?
I'M NOT MAKING YOU LUNCH ANYMORE!!

AH...
WHY?

I'M ALWAYS THE ONE BEING LED ON. ALWAYS ME.

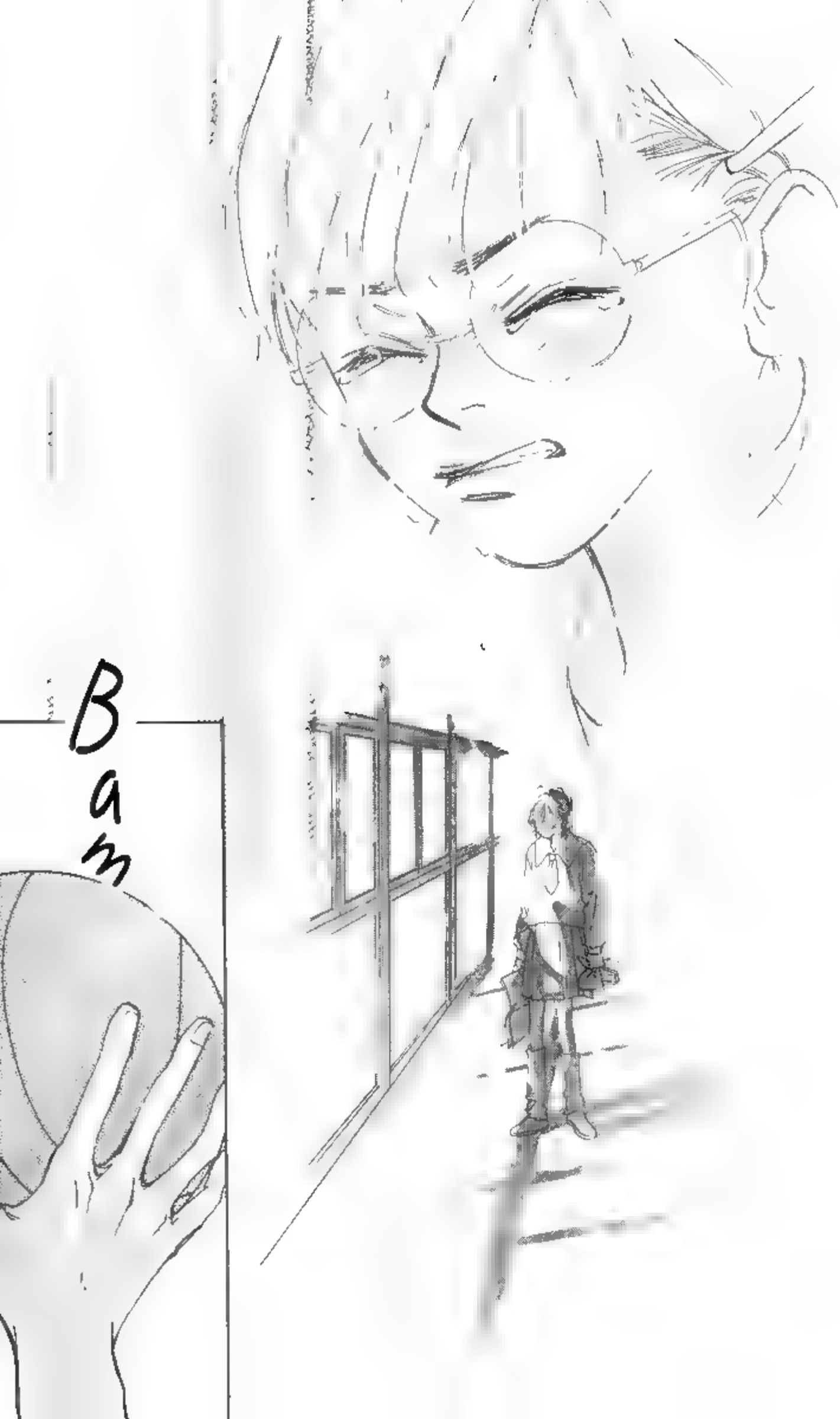
AM I THE ONLY ONE...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT HIM.

WHO'S SO MUCH IN LOVE?

WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS?


Bam

THE FIRST MATCH IN THE PREFECTURE TOURNAMENT IS TOMORROW!
BAM
LET'S SEE SOME SPIRIT!
Squeak
Squeak
YEAH!
BAM
Argh!
COUGH COUGH
COLD, KAME?
Here, like it's the most natural thing in the world.
Whistle
Every one of you!
Stop calling me Kame!
SHE HAS A JAPANESE NAME. I GUESS SHE'S MIXED.
STILL, SHE REALLY IS PRETTY.
An
Ah.
Sh-t
SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH WATARU.
I nearly fell over.
WHOA, WHAT A VOICE.
Bam
Bam
MY THROAT DOESN'T REALLY HURT,
BUT IT'S BEEN GIVING ME THIS WEIRD SENSATION.

Blink
OH, LIM, ARE YOU OK?
I HAVE CANDY...
Honey-flavored.
Bam
Bam!
Bam
Squeak
Squeak
Squeak
Beep
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT!
SHE'S AMAZING. SHE CAN PLAY BASKETBALL WITH WATARU EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A GIRL...
Gasp
!!
...
Suck
HMPH.
I'll take it anyway
ARE YOU DUMB?
Dumb
I give her candy and she calls me dumb.
Darn

Pull
YOU MUST HAVE LOOKED THE SAME WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.
!!
KAME, COME HERE A MINUTE!
Bleargh
Flip
THUMP
Glance

Bam
Bam
MIURA!
HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH THE UNIFORMS?
Gasp
AH. YES, I HAVE.
Bam
I PUT THEM IN THE CLUB ROOM.
THEY'RE SPEAKING GERMAN?
!
!!
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FORGET THEM TOMORROW.
And the tape and stuff.
O-OK...
THAT'S SNEAKY... WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND A WORD!
Gasp
MANAGER!

WHA
CK
Sma
sh
TOUKO!!

TOUKO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SOMEBODY GET A WET TOWEL!
MIURA!
OK!
MANA-GER!
ARE YOU—
HOW'S YOUR HEAD? WAS IT HIT?
(Clench)
N-NO...
...!

WHOA, BLOOD!
HUH?!
DRip
DRip
IS HER NOSE BLEEDING?!
THIS IS SO EMBAR-RASSING!
NO WAY!
Gasp
MY GLASSES
OH, MY HEAD IS SPINNING...
HMM? I CAN'T REALLY SEE ANYTHING...
Shove
Oof!
!!
DON'T LOOK UP!
WATARU...?
LOWER YOUR HEAD AND KEEP IT DOWN.
THAT'S IT.

I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE.
FLINCH
ACK!
THE GLASSES ARE BROKEN.
PICK UP THE PIECES.
They're sharp and dangerous.
DON'T MAKE ANY MORE FUSS THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE!
NEVER MIND THEM! SIT DOWN!
Rise
SORRY
MY GLASSES
Throb
HE PROBABLY NO LONGER NEEDS...
Throb
Throb
SOMEONE AS PATHETIC AS ME.
Tear
Throb

WATARU...

I CAN'T SEE THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE.

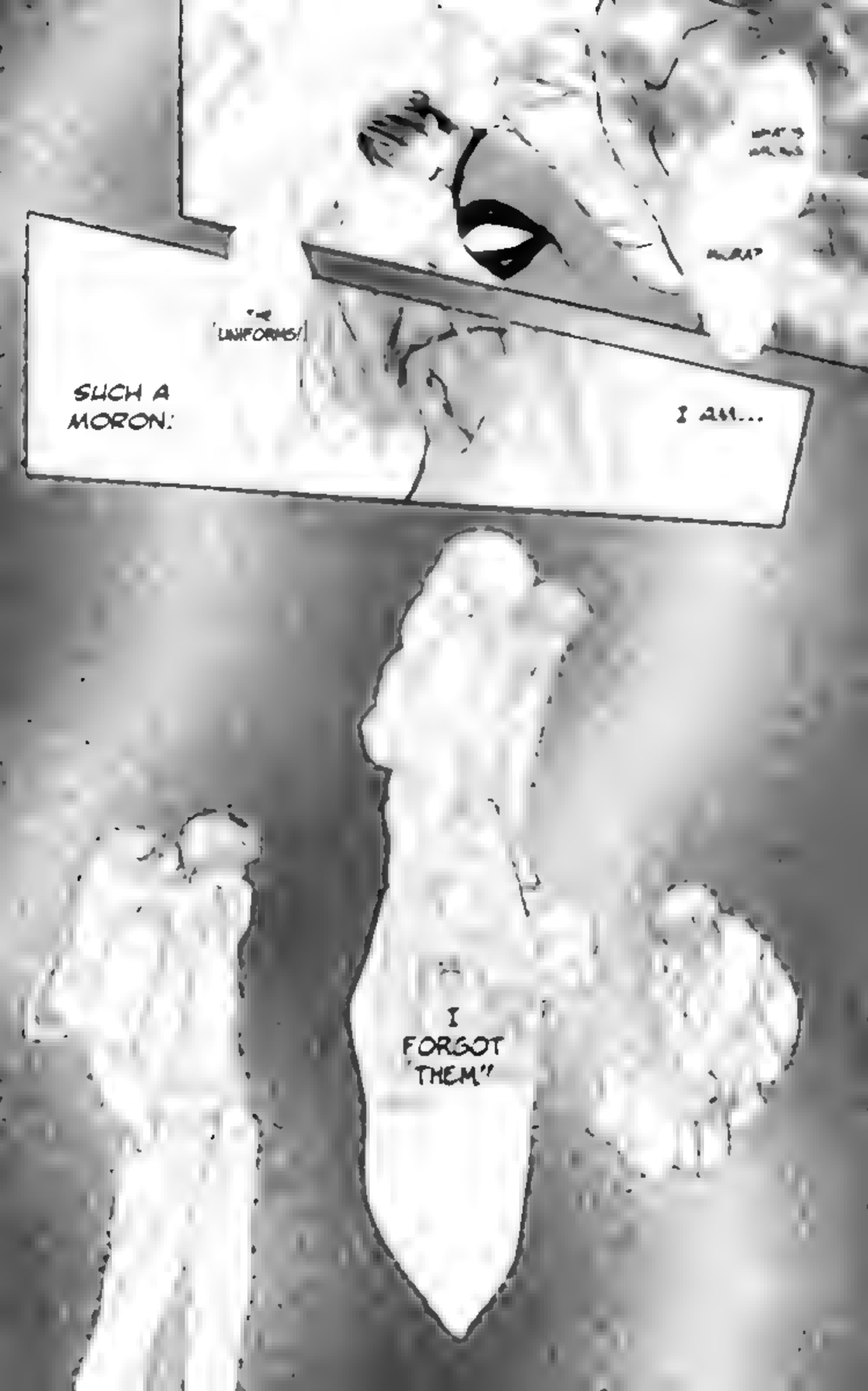
I CAN'T SEE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS...
CITY GYMNASIUM
THE FIRST GAME HASN'T STARTED YET, HUH?
WE CAME PRETTY EARLY.

HEY, I'M GETTING BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH!
ME, TOO.
ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH IT?
YEAH.
Chatter.
Chatter.
gasp
OH, UM...
WHERE ARE THEY?!
Throb
Throb
I HAVE A HEADACHE...
FROM LACK OF SLEEP...
AND MY BAD EYESIGHT...
UM, UH...
Where am I?
I CAN'T SEE.
Are you some country bumpkin?

Tug
THIS WAY.
AH...

WATARU TOOK ME HOME AFTER THAT...
BUT HE WAS SILENT ALL THE WAY HOME.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S IN A BAD MOOD.
Edge
THEY WERE OUT OF LENSES, SO IT MIGHT TAKE A WEEK.
ARE YOU OK?
HOW DID IT GO AT THE OPTICIAN'S?
YEAH.
DON'T BE. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
I SEE. I'M SORRY.
"DON'T EVER WEAR CONTACTS."
Thump
SIGH...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WEAR CONTACTS?

I FEEL DUMB FOR BELIEVING HIM WHEN HE SAID THAT,
"BECAUSE MY FACE IS ALL YOU NEED TO SEE WHEN YOU TAKE THEM OFF."
!!
SWOOP
MIURA?
OH, NO! DON'T TELL ME—!
THOUGH FOR SOME REASON...
OH,
OK.
GO GET THEM READY.
ANYWAY, WE'LL GIVE OUT THE UNIFORMS IN THE LOCKER ROOM.


'UNIFORMS!
SUCH A MORON.
I AM...
I FORGOT "THEM"

YOU FORGOT THE UNIFORMS?
ALL OF THEM?!
...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG?
Wince
OH,
UH, SORRY. YOU GUYS GO AHEAD.
...
DID YOU LEAVE THEM AT SCHOOL?
AH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AFTER ALL I DID TO CHECK THEM...

LET'S GO.
AH...
DROP
HUH?
I'LL GO BY MYSELF—
YOU'LL JUST MESS THINGS UP— YOU'RE PRACTICALLY BLIND!
!
HEY, NISHIZAKI?!

PLEASE COVER FOR ME WHILE I'M GONE!
FIFTY MINUTES!
MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK!
WATARU!!
AH!
Great

KAME-SAN?!
SHE'S HERE?
Thump
KAME!
LEND ME YOUR BIKE!
!
TOUKO!
GET ON!
UH,
OK.
Creak

SSSH
WHAT THE HELL IS ON YOUR MIND THESE DAYS?
YOU'RE A REAL MESS. THE ONLY THING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO RIGHT IS YOUR JOB AS THE MANAGER.
I'M SORRY.
APOLOGIZE TO THEM, NOT TO ME.

Squeeze
...!
I REALLY AM THE WORST.
THEY HAD MURDEROUS PRACTICES EVERY DAY, AND I JUST HAD TO RUIN ALL THEIR HARD WORK.
I'M SORRY ...
Slide
Pedal
Pedal
EVER SINCE KAME CAME.
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU?
Jump

Pedal
YOU, TOO.
Whisper
WHAT?
Pedal
Pedal
Sulk ...!
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD YOURSELF.
IS THIS SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT?
YOU NEVER TOLD ME...
YOU HATED MAKING LUNCH FOR ME, EITHER.
AH!

THAT WAS—
BUT IT WAS OK TO LET SOME OTHER GUY EAT IT, HUH?
SHIT!
THAT WAS BECAUSE...
...
PEDAL
GRIP
SO NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS, EH?!
THUD

Speaking of nurturing, a friend recently left her Tamagotchi in my care (She found a new breed.) Now it's 13 years old and weighs 20 grams. I tampered with the clock to adjust its living hours to mine, but it grew unreasonably older... (I've only been taking care of it for five days, too Sorry, T-san...

But I play with it a lot This is what it looks ke right now, after two transformations

A cute boy who looks like Kyoro-chan. (...It's a boy?)

I'd really like to get Tenichi for myself as well, but I wouldn't line up just to get it. Let's hear about it from those who did get it.

Actually, I also take pictures at photo sticker booths. (LOL) People keep telling me, "Oh, please! You're too old for this!" But I get hyped up whenever I see new photo borders. The letters I receive these days have photo stickers all over them, too! It's fun to look at them. I'm sure I'd be addicted to them if I were a middle school or high school student I can feel the fun moment squeezed into a single frame. ...But everybody else is too disgusted to take pictures with me, so I'm left all a one ..

(← Stupid, huh?)

Oh, well, let's meet again in the second volume of *Moebius no Tamago!*

See ya.

Throb

Throb

Bang!
THERE!
OWW
ARE YOU-?
Gasp
!!
GOOD. LET'S GO-
IT'S FINE. THEY'RE ALL HERE.

OH, NO! I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT!!
WATARU!!
IS IT HIS LEFT FOOT?
AND HE WAS PEDALING THE BIKE! WHAT IF HE CAN'T PLAY IN THE GAME?!
IS YOUR LEFT ANKLE HURTING?!
I'M SORRY!
...it.
THAT'S NOT IT.
HUH?
WHAT?
Ugh
Ouw
I just stubbed my little toe, is all!
Oh...

MY LEFT ANKLE IS PERFECTLY FINE NOW.
I HURT IT DURING A PRACTICE WITH KAME.
SO THAT'S IT...
WHEW...
Flop
THAT'S WHY THE IDIOT WON'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT.
LET'S HEAD BACK.
Tap
...

ARE YOU GOING BACK TO GERMANY...
WITH KAME-SAN?
HUH?
SO STUPID.
THAT'S WHY KAME-SAN CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, ISN'T IT?
Throb
I'M...
K-
KAME-SAN SAID SO.

NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS!
WHY DID YOU WANT ME TO BE THE MANAGER?
I BARELY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BASKETBALL! I EVEN BUNGLED THIS JOB!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT...
DON'T YOU THINK I'M NO GOOD?
BUT...!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE THINKING!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO ANNOYED WITH ME!
HEY,
HANG-
I CAN'T SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE.
...
K-KAME-SAN...
GETS ALONG WITH YOU MUCH BETTER.
KAME-SAN KNOWS YOU BETTER.
K-KISSED YOU EVEN. YOU'RE THAT CLOSE.
HE MUST BE TAKEN ABACK.

I FEEL SILLY.
HEY...
KAME-SAN'S BEEN STAYING AT YOUR PLACE THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
STUPID.
HEY!
YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING!
I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING MESSED WITH.
THUD
HEY, HEY!
TOUKO!

ARE YOU JEALOUS?
BLUSH
KUH?
WHAT—?
NO—!

ARGH
STOP STRUGGLING.
HEY, TOUKO!
OF COURSE NOT! FORGET WHAT I SAID!
TOU-
WIGGLE
NO!
NO!!!
TOUKO!
WIGGLE
STUPID!
TOUKO!
STUPID!
STU-PID!!
STUPID!
ARGH! WE HAVE TO HURRY BACK!
STUPID!
COME ON!
STUPID!
NO WAY!
IT'S OK. LOOK AT ME.
LOOK!
NO!
JUST LOOK AT ME.
I-I CAN'T SEE, REMEMBER?!
Monkey
I CAN'T SEE YOU!

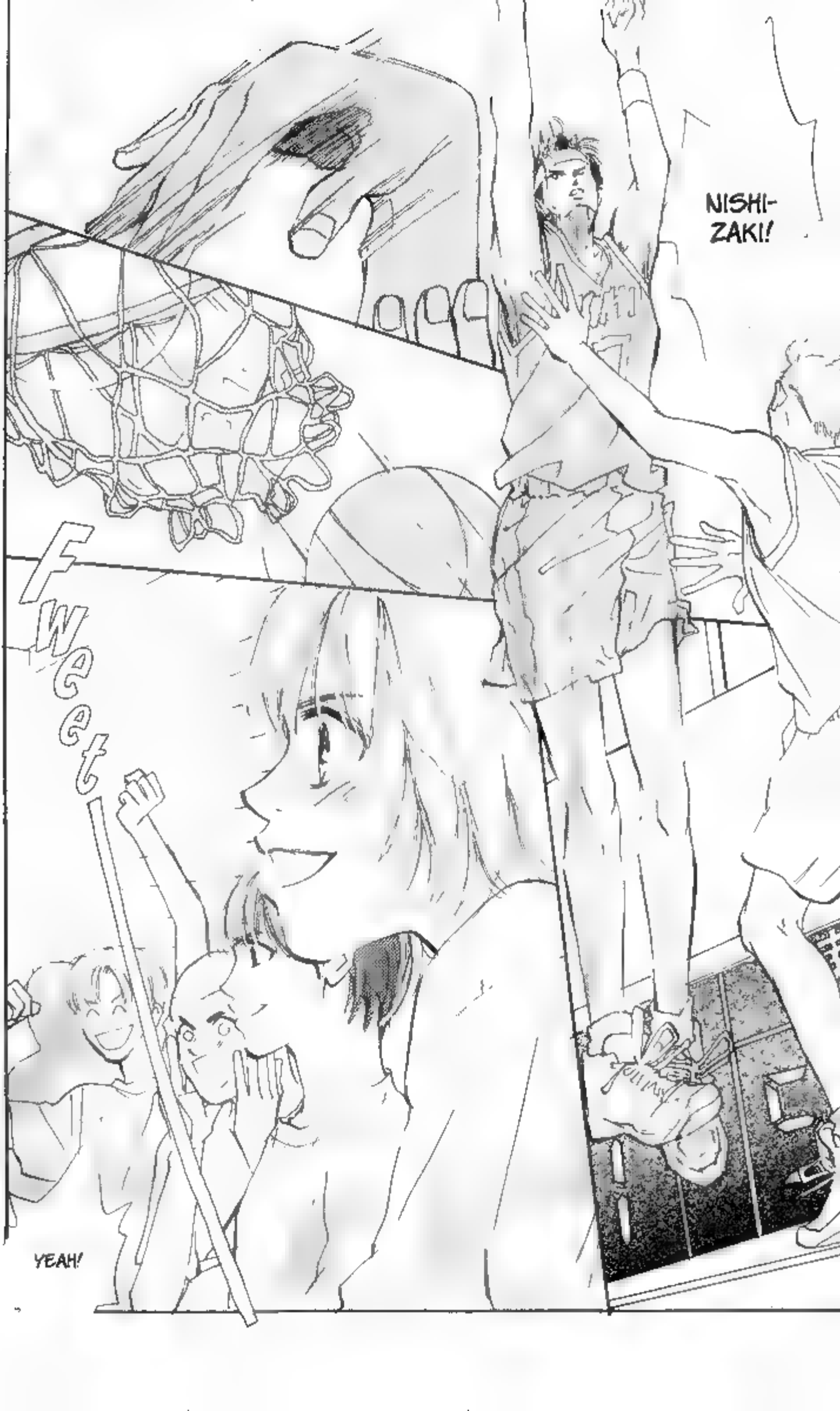
Hey,
Pinch
OPEN YOUR EYES.
HIS SMILING FACE, EVEN CLOSER THAN THE ONE I'VE BEEN SEEING THROUGH MY GLASSES.
YOU CAN SEE ME, RIGHT?

YEAH.
Thump
I CAN'T...

I TOLD YOU YOU'RE MINE ALONE, TOUKO-CHAN.
I CAN'T...
I CAN'T RESIST THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE TELL ME...
HIGASHI
7

OR HOW MUCH BETTER KAME-SAN LOOKS WITH WATARU...
NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
I CAN'T HELP IT.
BECAUSE ...


NISHI-
ZAKI!
FWeet
YEAH!

Buzz
Slap
Buzz
WELL DONE!
GOOD JOB!
CONGRAT-
Dart
Stomp
!!
...I LOVE WATARU.

I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I CAN'T REALLY SEE, THAT'S WHY—
You stepped on my foot really hard!
Damn you!!
Whoa!
Yeowch!
AND HE SOUNDS ANGRY!!!
IT'S A GUY!!
UH-OH!
EEK!
Oh, it's Kame-Chan. Did you come to watch our game?
HUH?
You monkey!
Don't space out!

You're still calling me that?!
QUIT CALLING ME KAME!
UH-
SHOCK
K-
KAME-SAN?!
Are... are you OK?!
You sound like a guy!!
What's wrong with your voice?!

Twitch Twitch
...
YOU...
FLUSH
Candy?
HUH?
PFFFT!
YOU...
CAN'T.
WHERE DID YOU PUT YOUR EYES, MONKEY?!
I'M A GUY, DAMN IT!
Here..
Stop laugh-ing!
You son of a—
Hee!
What a laugh!
Hee hee hee hee hee

Whaaaaaaaat?!
AR
RO
!
Swing
I'M SO GOING TO KILL ALL OF YOU RETARDS!
Ah, my stomach hurts.
Ha ha ha
THIS GUY KISSES EVERYBODY HE LIKES.
BECAUSE HE'S A KID.
He likes getting physical.
HE DOESN'T USUALLY KISS ON THE LIPS, though.
THAT WAS JUST HIS NICKNAME AS A KID.
'CAUSE HE LOOKED LIKE A PINK FLOWER NAMED THAT.
B-BUT...
ERICA...
B-BUT YOU KISSED NISHIZAKI!
WHOA

SO THAT'S IT, HUH?
OH... OK...
LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER FEEL JEALOUS.
...AND I'LL TELL YOU IF I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO.
Thump!
I SEE. THAT'S WHAT GOT YOU ALL WORKED UP.
!
HEY, WATARU...
LET ANOTHER GUY EAT THE FOOD YOU PREPARE AGAIN.
DON'T EVER...

PROMISE ME THAT.

...IS IT TOO MUCH TO THINK THAT I'M THE ONLY PERSON...

YOU BOSS AROUND LIKE THIS?

JEEZ.

Buzz
Mutter Mutter
RUDE JERKS, THE WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM!
WHICH PART OF ME LOOKS LIKE A GIRL?!
BUT YOU MUST FEEL RELIEVED NOW, RIGHT?
HE SOUNDS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON BECAUSE OF HIS VOICE. IT'S CREEPY...
SORRY
Buzz
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW, IT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CONTACT ME.
Whoop!
..I GUESS.
Knock!
SO I CAN MAKE SOME TIME FOR YOU.
AND NEXT TIME, CALL ME BEFORE COMING TO VISIT...
Ah~ Didn't I ha already ha! apolo-gize?
SO STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT.
PLAYING BASKETBALL DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY WORSE,

Mwah
Hey, Wataru!
I want chocolate! Go Buy me some!
Gives me the creeps
DON'T MOOCH THINGS FROM ME WITH THAT HOARSE VOICE.
FINE, I'LL GO.
Sheesh
I REALLY DO ENVY KAME-SAN.
You must be relieved to see me go back!
Pinch
I never said that!
Ow!
HE HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE WITH WATARU AS HIS BEST FRIEND.
THEY SHARE SOMETHING I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.
BUT STILL...

MAN, THIS IS SO STUPID.
MAYBE I REALLY SHOULD TAKE WATARU BACK.
NO WAY.
I LOVE WATARU,
AND I'M NOT HANDING HIM OVER.
YOU FINALLY SAID IT.
Heh

Smooch
...!
AHHHHHH!
Drop Drop

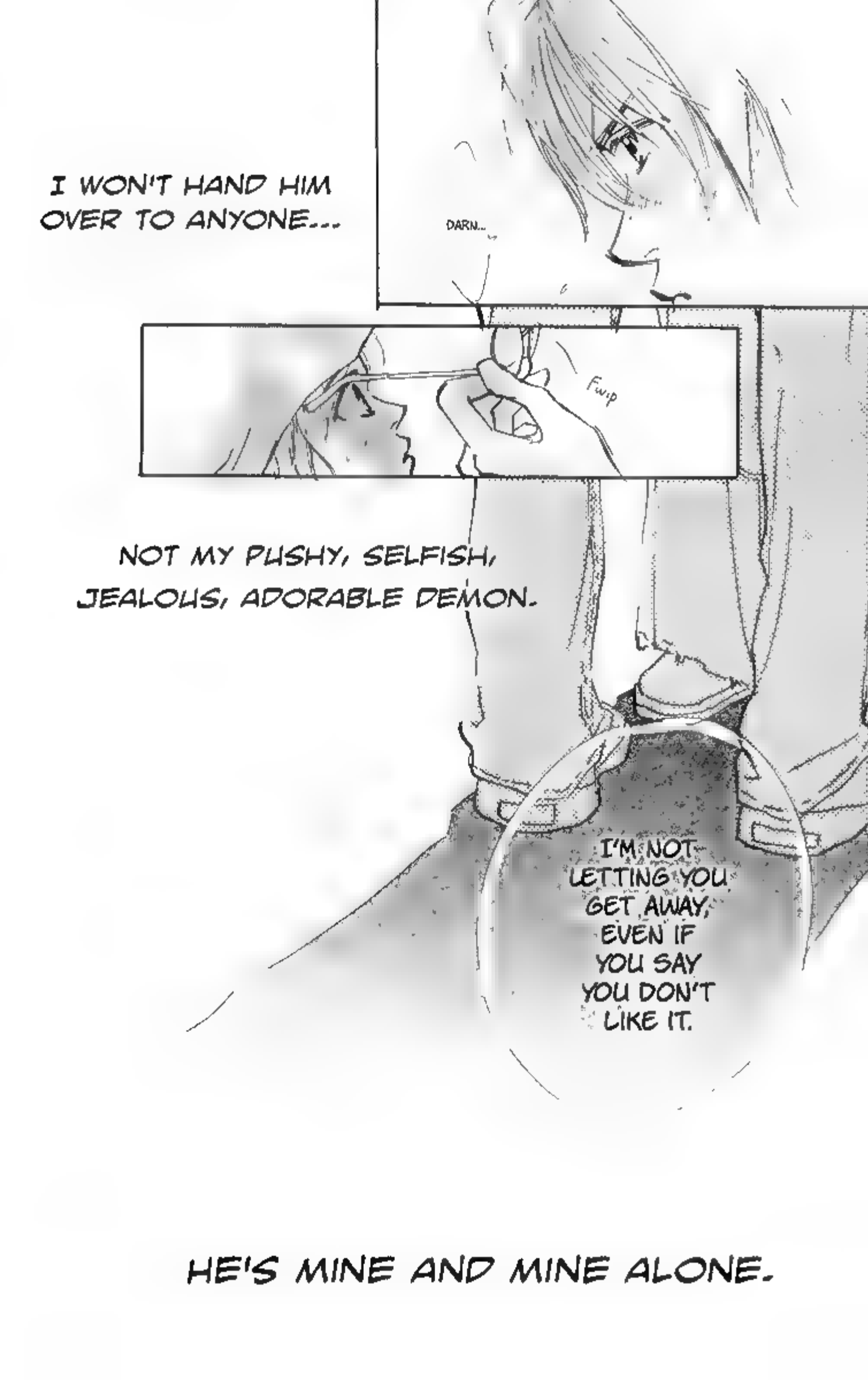
Ha ha ha
Damn you.
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER!!
Kame-nosuke!!!
ha
ha
I tried to stop
SHE'LL HATE YOU IF YOU'RE TOO CLINGY.
Glare!
KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY BUSINESS!
TOUKO, WE'RE GOING BACK!!
AH!
Pout

IGNORE HIM!
WH-
WHAT ABOUT KAME?
Tsuki?!
So ironic
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU WERE TOO CARELESS!
WATA-
YOU LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN!
WATARU!
COULDN'T YOU BE MORE ALERT?!

WHY THE HELL DID HE HAVE TO MESS WITH ME, ANYWAY?!
ARGH!!
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT!
HIS ANGRY FACE...
DAMN KAME!
HE PISSES ME OFF!
AND HIS TIGHT HOLD ON MY ARM...

I'M SO HAPPY,
I CAN'T KEEP THE SMILE OFF MY FACE.
HAPPY KAME KISSED YOU, ARE YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU SMILING, DAMN IT?!
Hee hee
HE KISSED YOU, TOO, REMEMBER?
THAT WAS—

BEING MESSED WITH AND ACTING SILLY...
YOU'RE MINE FOREVER.
Blush
...!
WE'RE EVEN ON THAT.


I WON'T HAND HIM OVER TO ANYONE...
DARN...
Flip
NOT MY PUSHY, SELFISH, JEALOUS, ADORABLE DEMON.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY, EVEN IF YOU SAY YOU DON'T LIKE IT.
HE'S MINE AND MINE ALONE.

HEY, FOR TOMORROW'S LUNCH,

I'D LIKE TO HAVE *TAMAGOYAKI* WITH CHEESE.

YOU'RE BOSSING ME AROUND AGAIN.

OH, COME ON. I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING THE GIRL I LOVE MAKE MY LUNCH.

HUH?

《 The End 》

MARGARET COMICS

藤井亜美

やさしい悪魔

MARGARET

Yasashii Akuma
(Kind Demon)

FUJII Akemi

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● Included Works ●

Yasashii Akuma (Kind Demon)

Yasashii Akuma ~Iouzu na Ookami no Ezuke Kata~
(Kind Demon: How to Artificially Feed an Able Wolf)

Kind DEMON

Yasashii Akuma

Translation: Kurenai
Scans: Totochan
Editing: Ink + cleaning from Locutis (chap 3) & lettering help from Kurenai (chap 2)
Proofreading: Conner (chap 1+3-4) & AyabeWakasa (chap 2)

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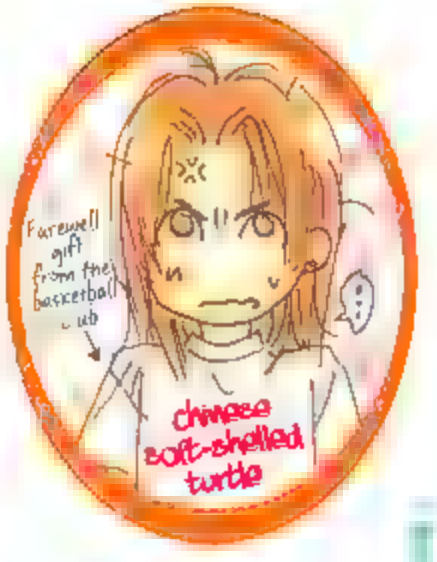
Note: Kame means turtle



Comments

♥ *I suppose the first thing that comes to mind when Yasashii Akuma is mentioned is that song from Candies*. I went to the karaoke bar with my assistant's daughter in order to refresh my memory of the lyrics. When the song came up, she told me she'd never heard it before. No way! I was shocked!*
— Fujii Akemi

♥ *After nine years, Touko meets her childhood friend, Wataru-kun, again. He used to be a small boy and a crybaby, but he has completely changed...*

*Candies = a band. *Yasashii Akuma* was the title of one of their songs.

LOVE
M C
9708

FUJII Akemi's Greatest Graphic Novels

Hoshikuzutachi no Mori *(The Forest with Stardust)*
Rojiura no Sugar Garden
(The Sugar Garden Behind the Alley)
25-ji no Carol *(The Carol at 25:00 Hours)*
Binetsu Shounen Shoujo
(Slightly Feverish Boys and Girls)
50-50 ~fifty-fifty~ *(Fifty-fifty)*
Kaitei Seishun no, Susume
(Recommendations for the Young, Revised) - 3 volumes
Kami-sama Onegai! *(God, Please!)* - 2 volumes
<B+> HEROES *(B+ Heroes)* - 2 volumes
Moebius no Tamago *(Moebius's Egg)* - ①
Yasashii Akuma *(Kind Demon)*

BONUS PAGES 6

GENIUS FUJI-BON'S NEW ASPIRATIONS FOR '97

* This time, there wasn't much space left, so this extra is only 2 pages. Sorry! ô

FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS...

FUJI-BON HAD BEEN THINKING...

THAT SHE WANTED TO TRY **snow-boarding** AT LEAST ONCE.

Whee!

SHE HAD MADE SEVERAL PLANS,

AND EVEN SIGNED UP FOR TOURS.

UNFORTUNATELY, EACH PLAN HAD TO BE CANCELED DUE TO ALL SORTS OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

What

The vacation's off. Something came up suddenly.

BUT IN THE SPRING OF '97...

SHE FINALLY HAD THE CHANCE...

Ho ho

Right in season!

TO GO TO THE SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS OF HOKKAIDO!!

Stop running nose!

HAVING BEEN BORN IN A SNOWLESS AREA,

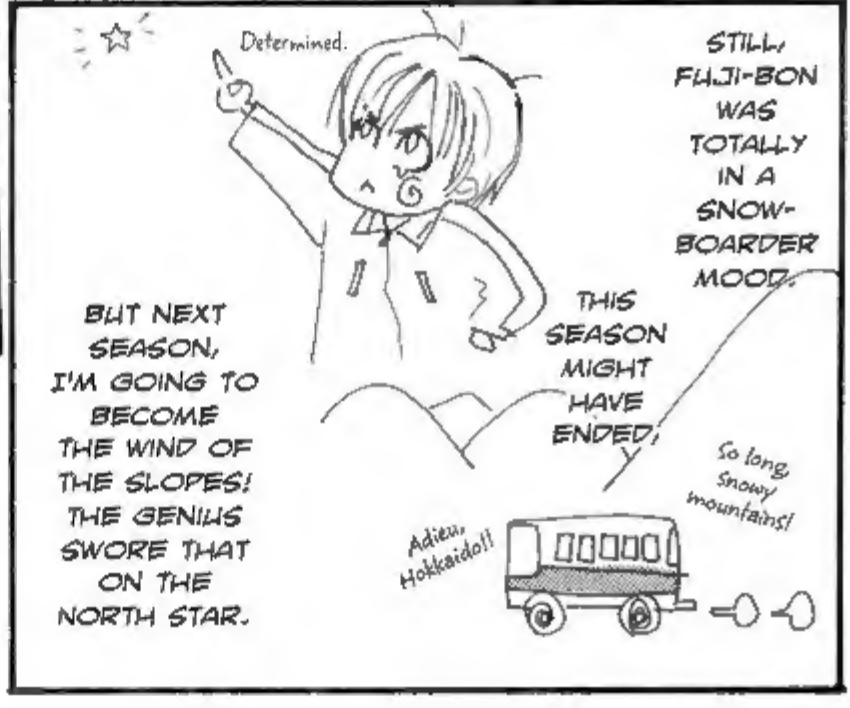
FUJI-BON DISCOVERED THE MARVELS OF SNOW FOR THE FIRST TIME.

To put it simply, she had never skied in her life.

*Probably Ueda Rinko.

Heh heh heh.
DREAMY
Because I'm a genius
AT THAT MOMENT, IMAGES OF HERSELF GLIDING GRACEFULLY ACROSS THE SNOW BEGAN FORMING IN HER HEAD.

Nostrils flaring.
The girls snowboarding beautifully while waiting for the ski lift.
AT THIS RATE, I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO RIDE THE SKI LIFT.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
Darn it! I'm supposed to be a genius!
Huff Huff


Determined.
BUT NEXT SEASON, I'M GOING TO BECOME THE WIND OF THE SLOPES! THE GENIUS SWORE THAT ON THE NORTH STAR.
STILL, FUJI-BON WAS TOTALLY IN A SNOW-BOARDER MOOD.
THIS SEASON MIGHT HAVE ENDED.
So long, snowy mountains!
Adieu, Hokkaido!!

TO BE CONTINUED. (Where?)

Kind DEMON

FUJII Akemi

♣ Contents ♣

♡ Yasashii Akuma ..... (3)
(Kind Demon)

♡ Yasashii Akuma ..... (75)
~Jouzu na Ookami no Ezuke Kata~
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